Chingis Khan
成吉思汗
チンギスハーン
5

[カバーフォト]
Y.AKIMOTO/CTSフォトニカ

Chingis Khan
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Mitsuteru Yokoyama
横山光輝

大帝国の巻

Akita Bunko

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横山光輝（よこやまみつてる）

本名，横山光照。1934年（昭和9年）6月18日、
兵庫県神戸市須磨区に生まれる。
1954年「音無しの剣」でデビュー。
1956年「鉄人28号」で第一線に躍り出て、
1962年「伊賀の影丸」で不動の地位を確立する。
以来、少年、少女から青年誌まで、
時代、歴史ものからSFに到るまで、
あらゆるジャンルの傑作を数多く生みだしている。
1991年「三国志」で
第20回日本漫画家協会賞優秀賞を受賞。
代表作品「鉄人28号」「伊賀の影丸」「バビル2世」
「マーズ」「その名は101」「チンギスハーン」
「あばれ天童」「おてんば天使」「魔法使いサリー」
「三国志」など多数。

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World Empire

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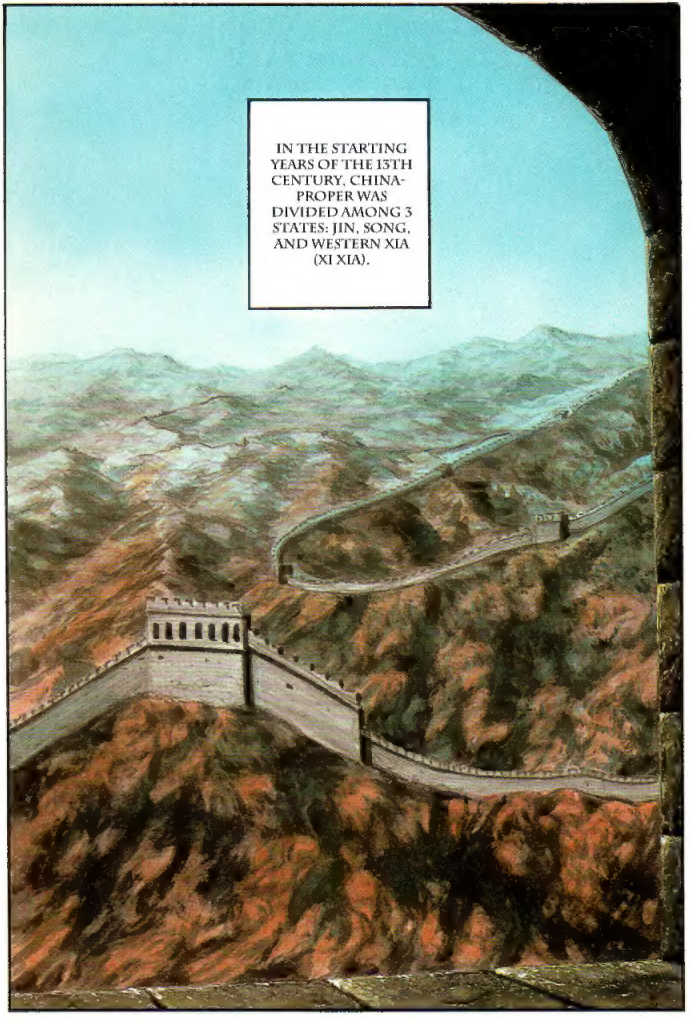
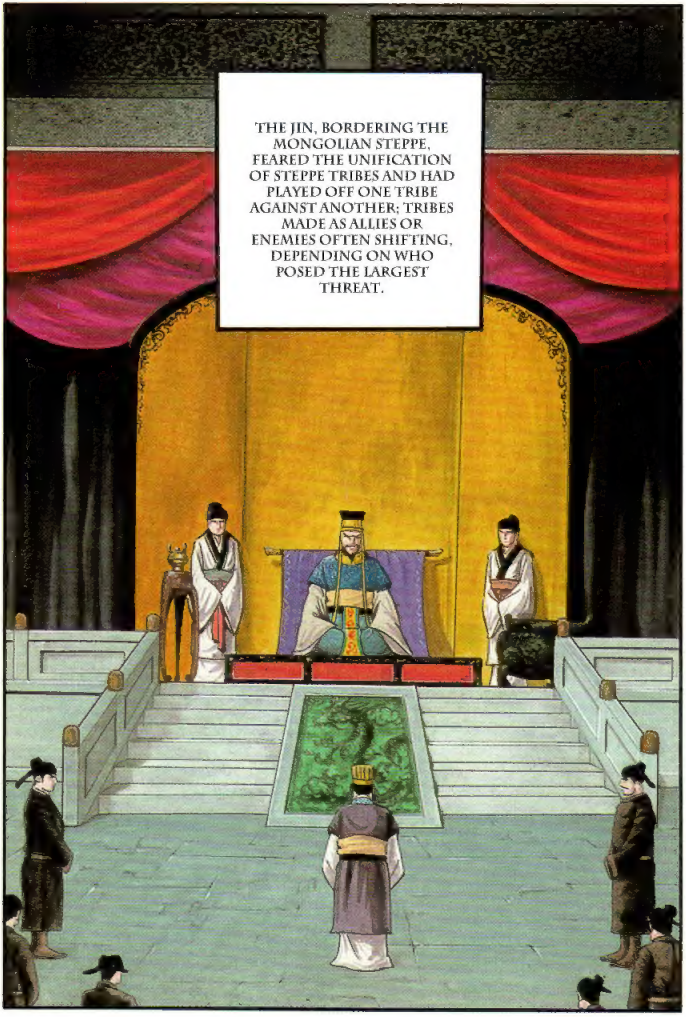
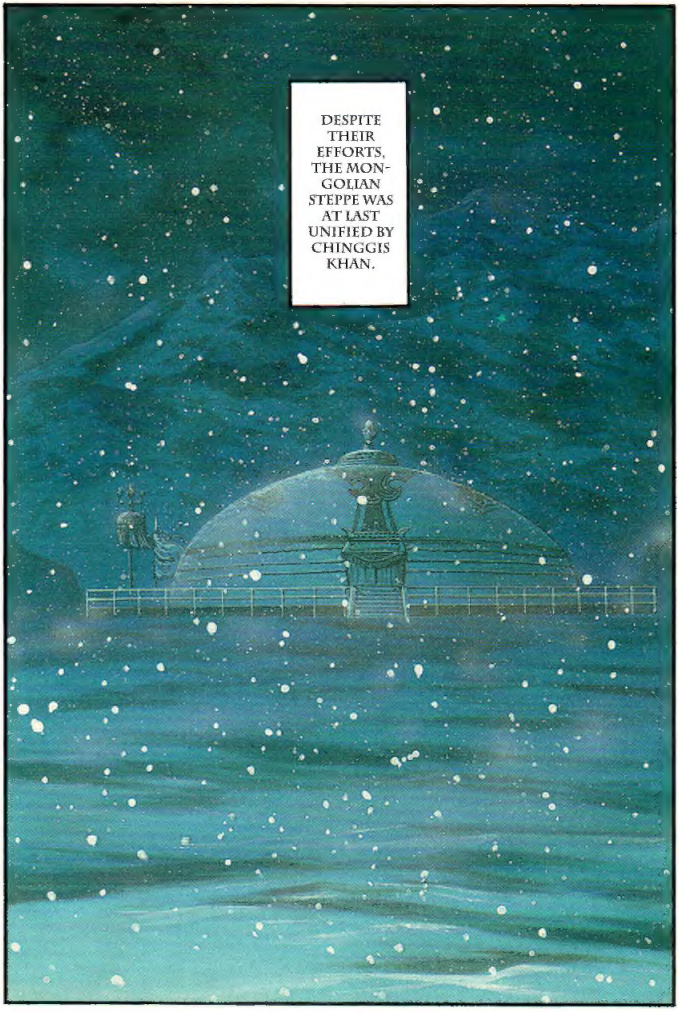
Translated by Hox
Edited by Happyscans

Death of a Mother


IN THE STARTING YEARS OF THE 13TH CENTURY, CHINA-PROPER WAS DIVIDED AMONG 3 STATES: JIN, SONG, AND WESTERN XIA (XI XIA).


THE JIN, BORDERING THE MONGOLIAN STEPPE, FEARED THE UNIFICATION OF STEPPE TRIBES AND HAD PLAYED OFF ONE TRIBE AGAINST ANOTHER; TRIBES MADE AS ALLIES OR ENEMIES OFTEN SHIFTING, DEPENDING ON WHO POSED THE LARGEST THREAT.

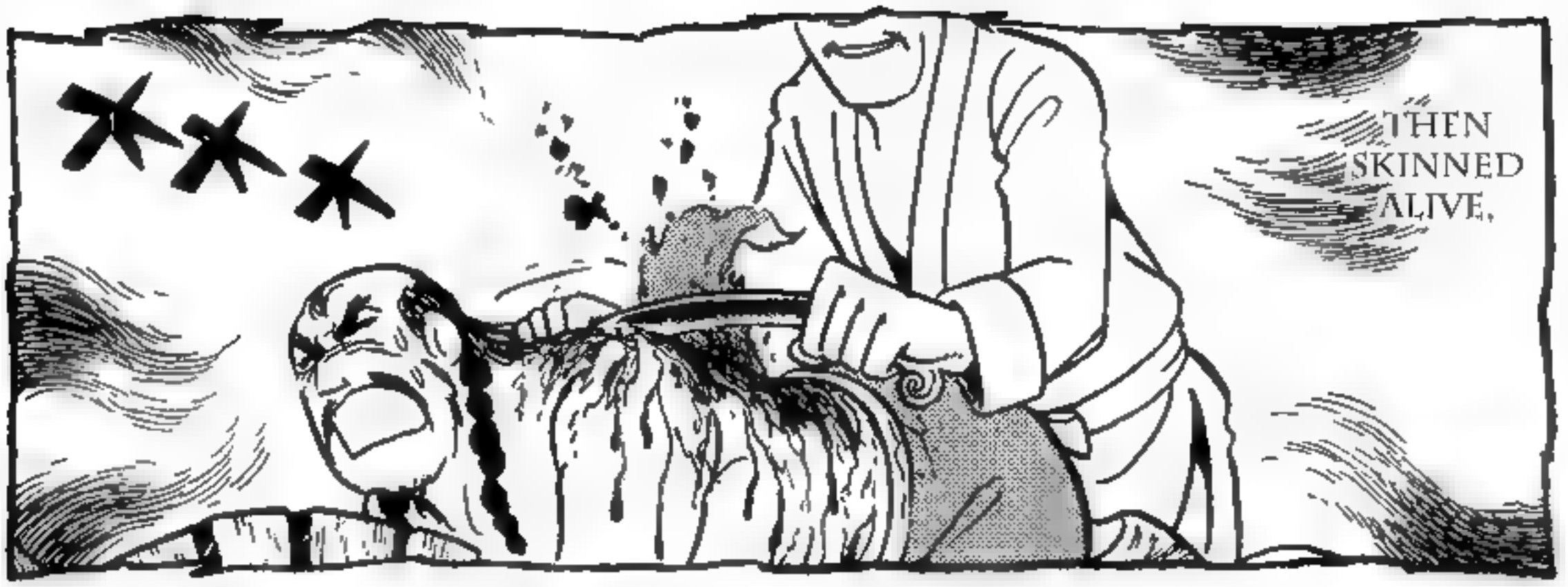

DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS, THE MONGOLIAN STEPPE WAS AT LAST UNIFIED BY CHINGGIS KHAN.

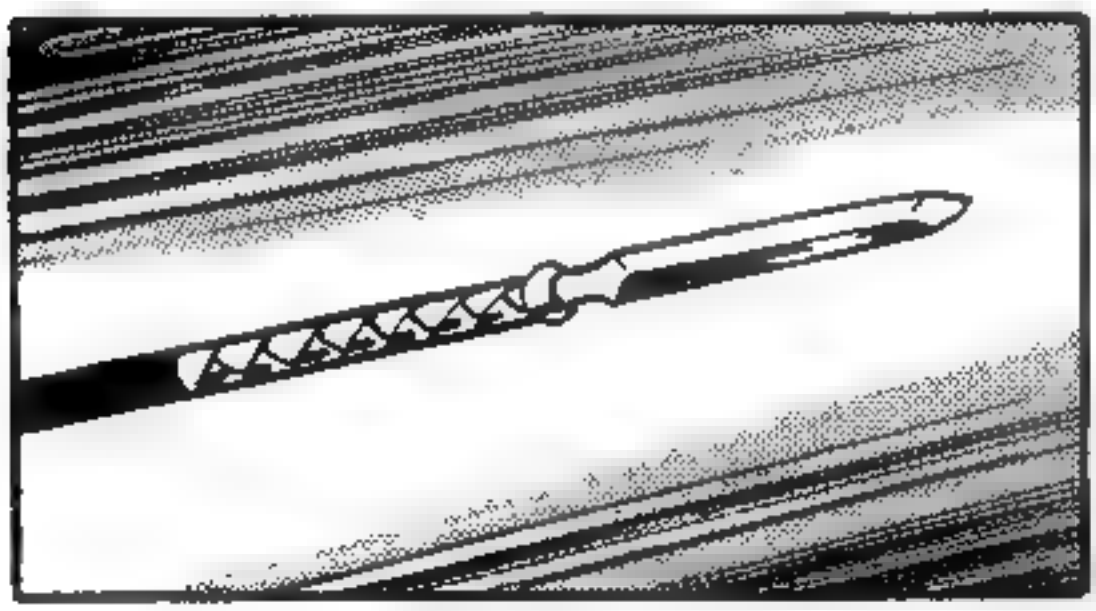
YOU SAY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE TO PROSPER EVEN AFTER I'VE BROUGHT PEACE?

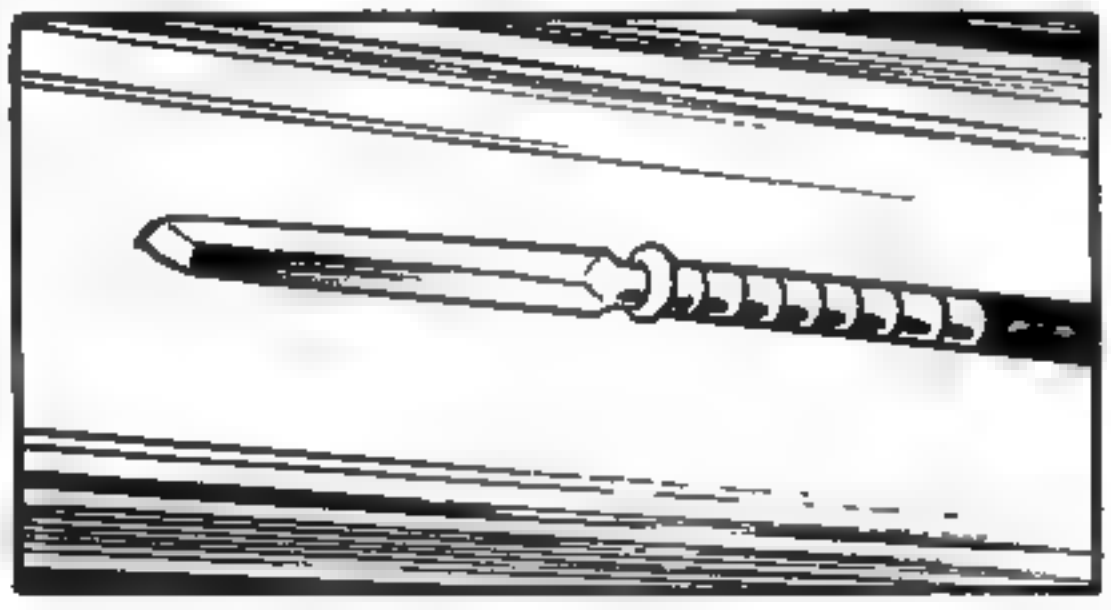
I'M AFRAID SO, CHINGGIS KHAN. 200 SHEEP WOULD BE NEEDED FOR ONE AVERAGE-SIZED FAMILY TO LIVE IN PROSPERITY FOR ONE YEAR. HOWEVER, THE STEPPE CANNOT SUPPORT SO MANY LIVESTOCK FOR ALL THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES.
OBTAIN RICHER LANDS AND EXPAND TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURS.
THEN WHAT CAN I DO TO ENSURE THE PROSPERITY OF MY PEOPLE?
RICHER LANDS?
ATTACK THE JIN...!?
BY THAT, I AM OF COURSE REFERRING TO THE JIN.

THE JIN ALWAYS HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE OUR CHIEF ENEMY. WHAT MONGOL BOY OR GIRL DOES NOT KNOW THE CRUEL IMPRISONING AND EXECUTION OF AMBAKAI KHAN, THE 2ND KHAN OF THE KHAMAG MONGOLS, AT JIN HANDS?

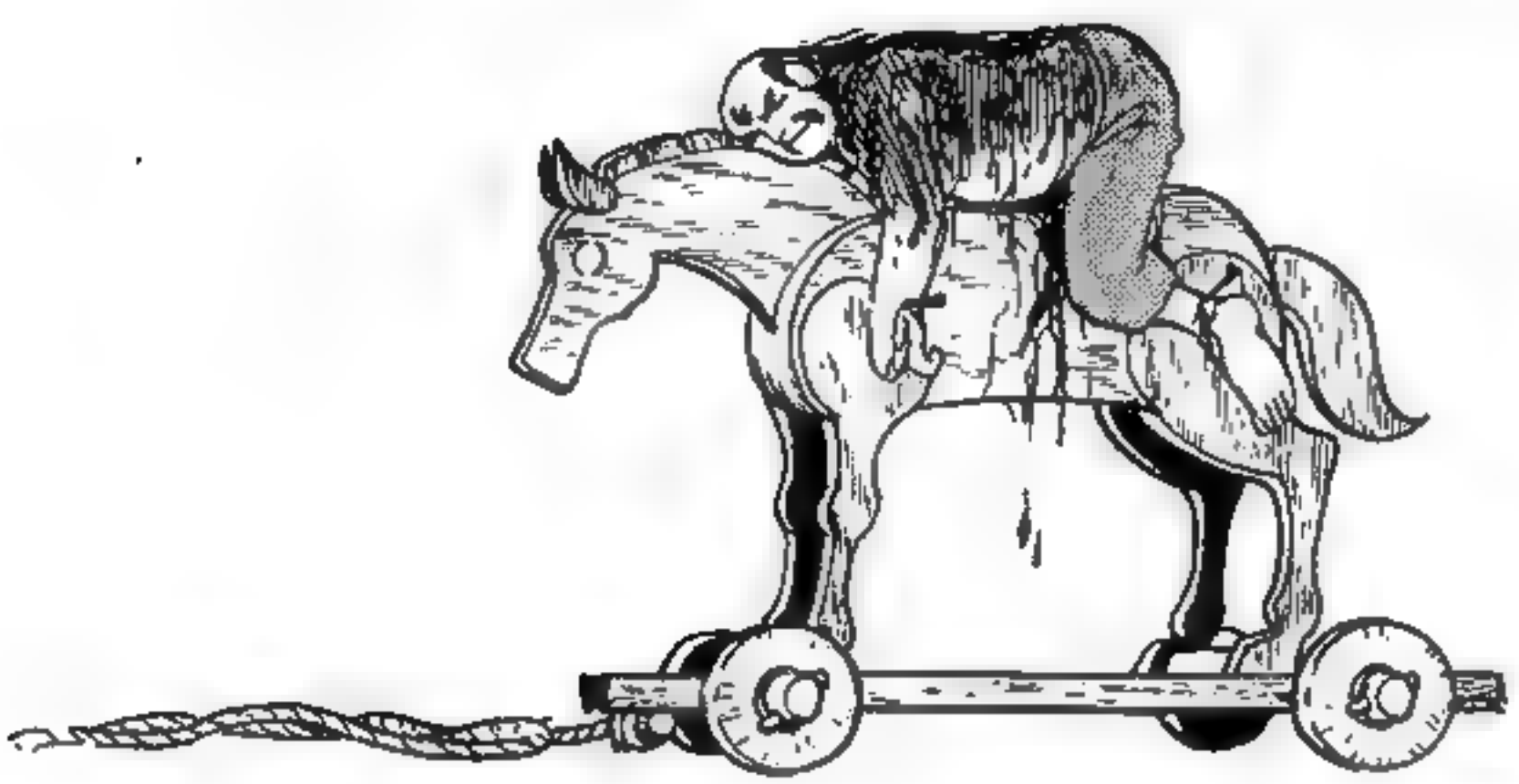
NAILED TO A WOODEN HORSE AND PARADED THROUGHOUT THEIR CITY SQUARE...

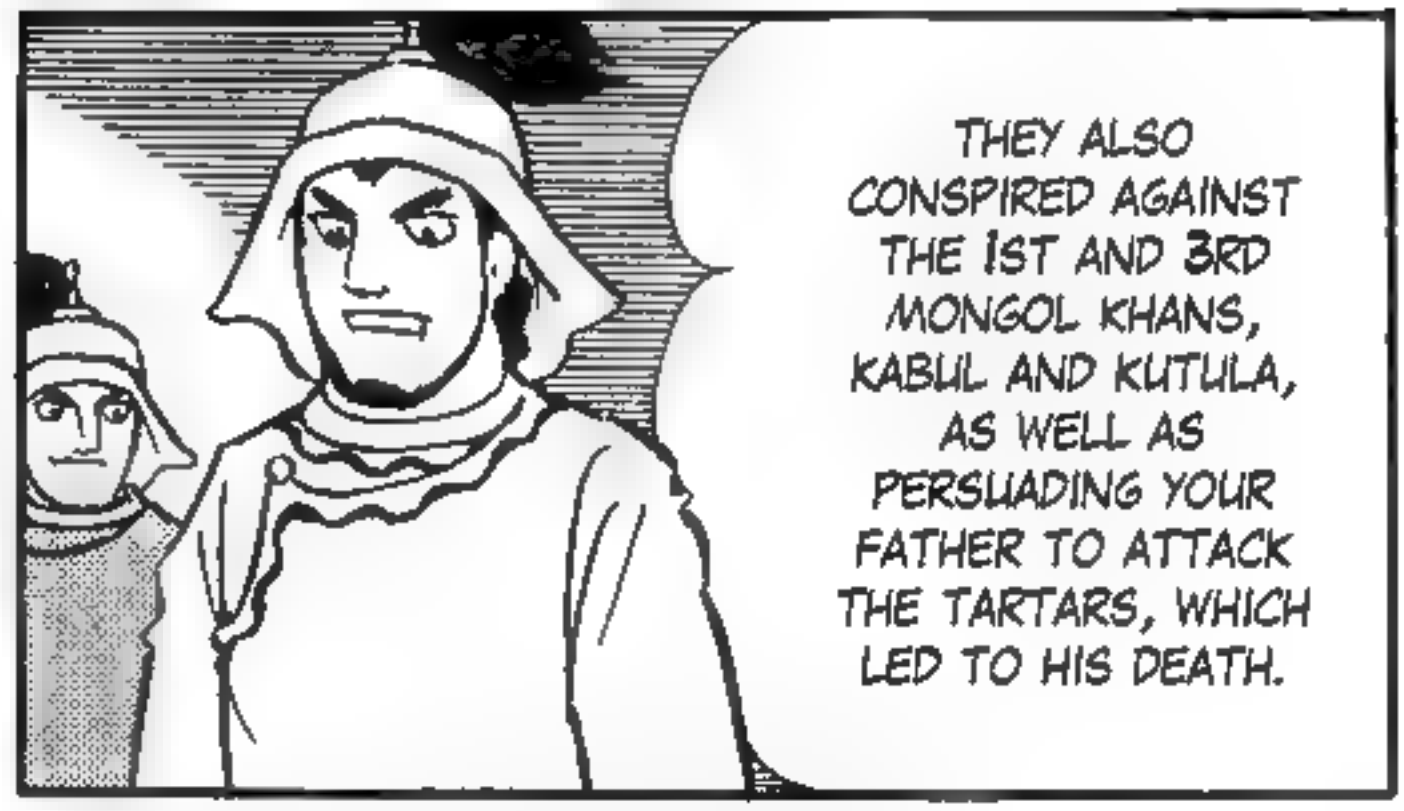


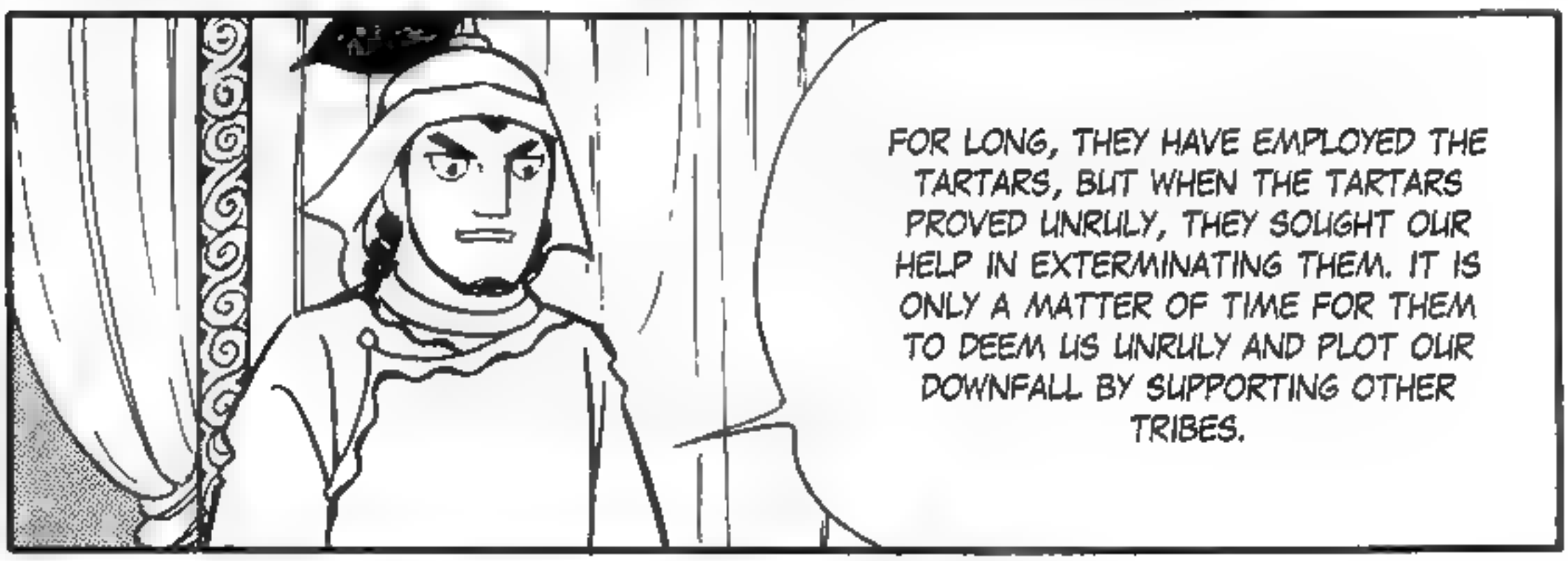


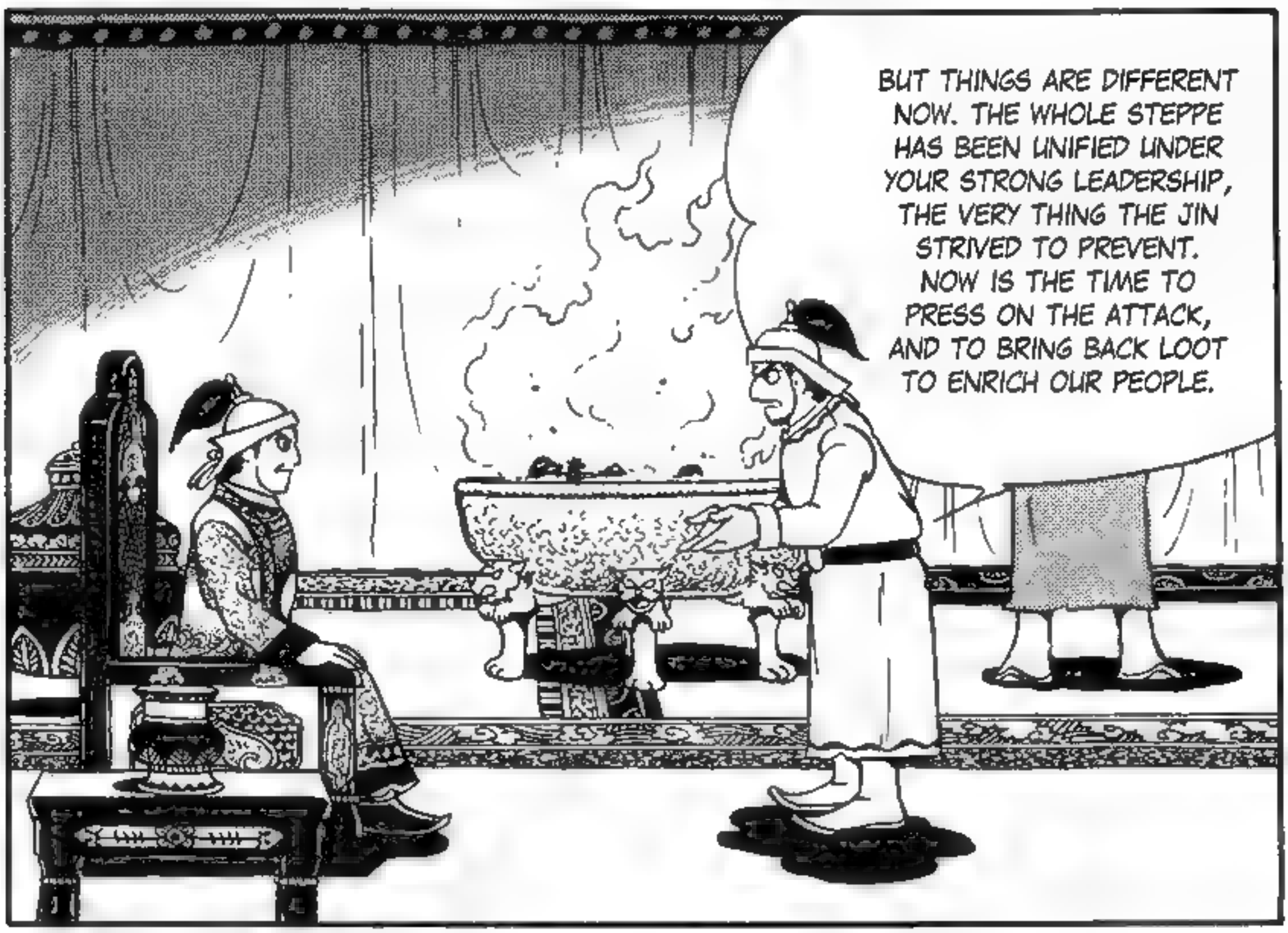


BEFORE BEING DELIVERED THE FINISHING BLOW.




THEY ALSO CONSPIRED AGAINST THE 1ST AND 3RD MONGOL KHANS, KABUL AND KUTULA, AS WELL AS PERSUADING YOUR FATHER TO ATTACK THE TARTARS, WHICH LED TO HIS DEATH.


FOR LONG, THEY HAVE EMPLOYED THE TARTARS, BUT WHEN THE TARTARS PROVED UNRULY, THEY SOUGHT OUR HELP IN EXTERMINATING THEM. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR THEM TO DEEM US UNRULY AND PLOT OUR DOWNFALL BY SUPPORTING OTHER TRIBES.


BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW. THE WHOLE STEPPE HAS BEEN UNIFIED UNDER YOUR STRONG LEADERSHIP, THE VERY THING THE JIN STRIVED TO PREVENT. NOW IS THE TIME TO PRESS ON THE ATTACK, AND TO BRING BACK LOOT TO ENRICH OUR PEOPLE.

WHAT LOYAL MONGOL OBJECTS TO VANQUISHING OUR OLD FOE?

I HEARTILY AGREE.

WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT JEBE'S PROPOSAL?

HM...

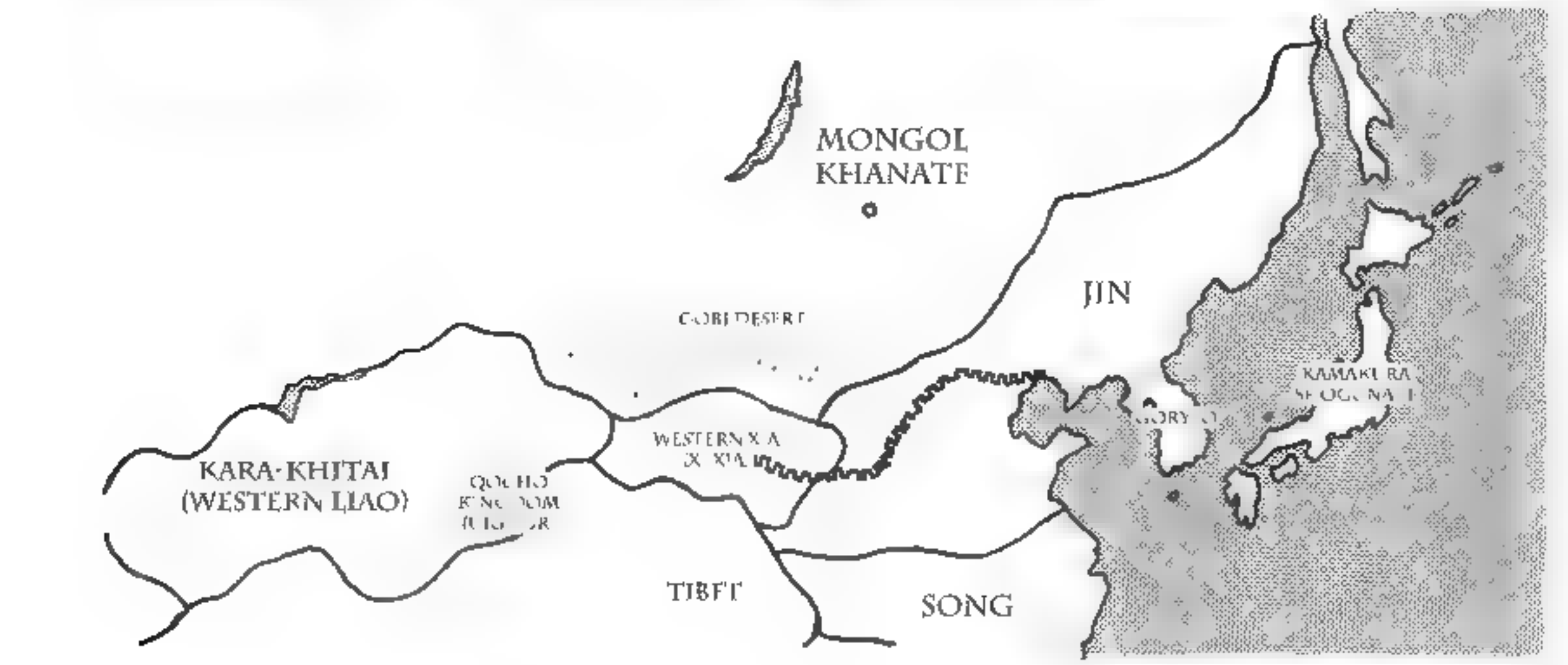
THE STABILITY YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO THE STEPPE WILL NOW ALLOW US TO CONDUCT DISTANT CAMPAIGNS WITHOUT FEAR OF SURPRISE ATTACK BY NEIGHBOURING TRIBES. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO STRIKE THAN NOW.

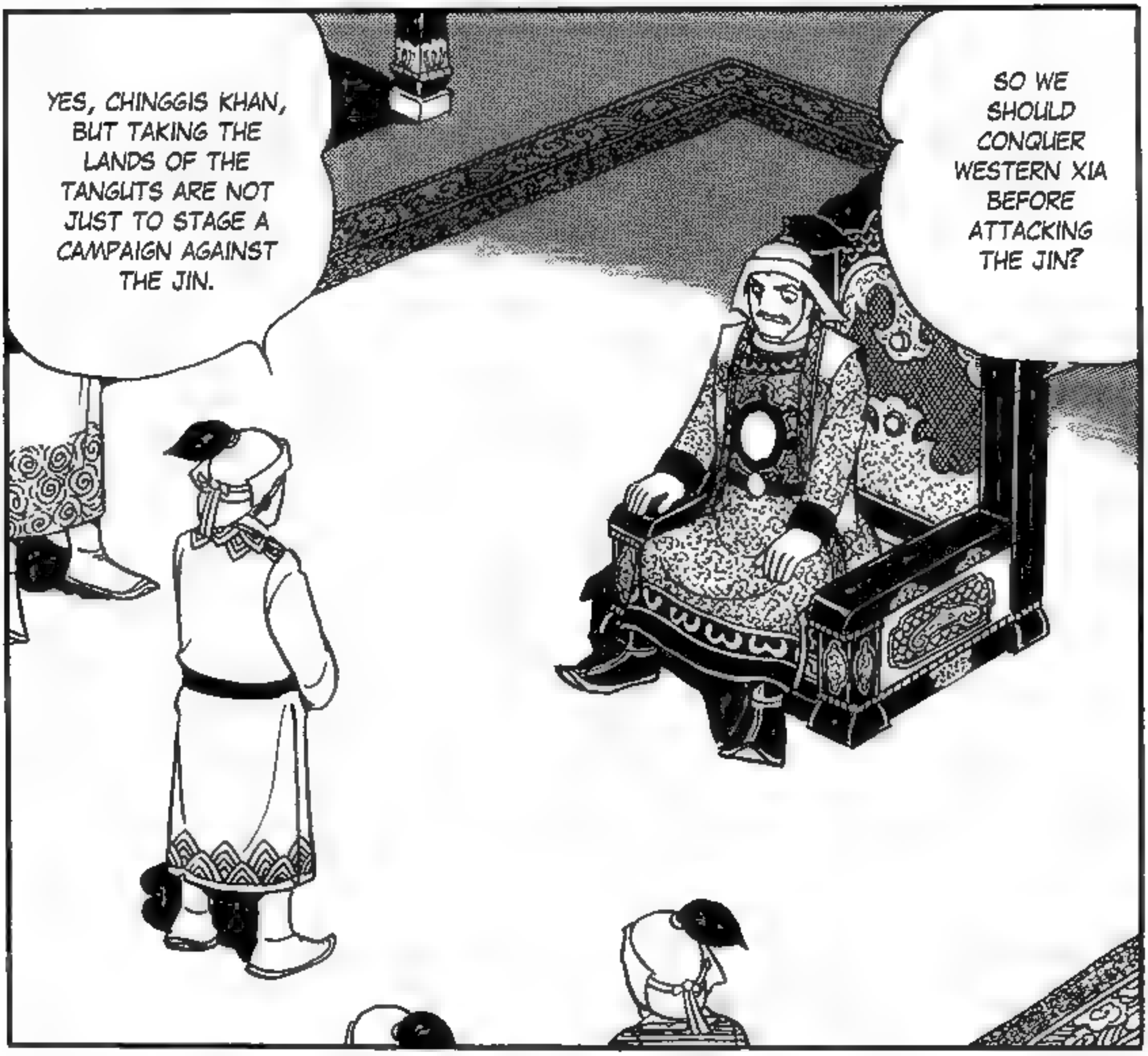
I AM NOT UNAWARE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE JIN HAVE STAINED OUR PEOPLE'S HISTORY BLOOD-RED, NOR THE RICHNESS OF THEIR LANDS WHICH CAN BENEFIT OUR PEOPLE.

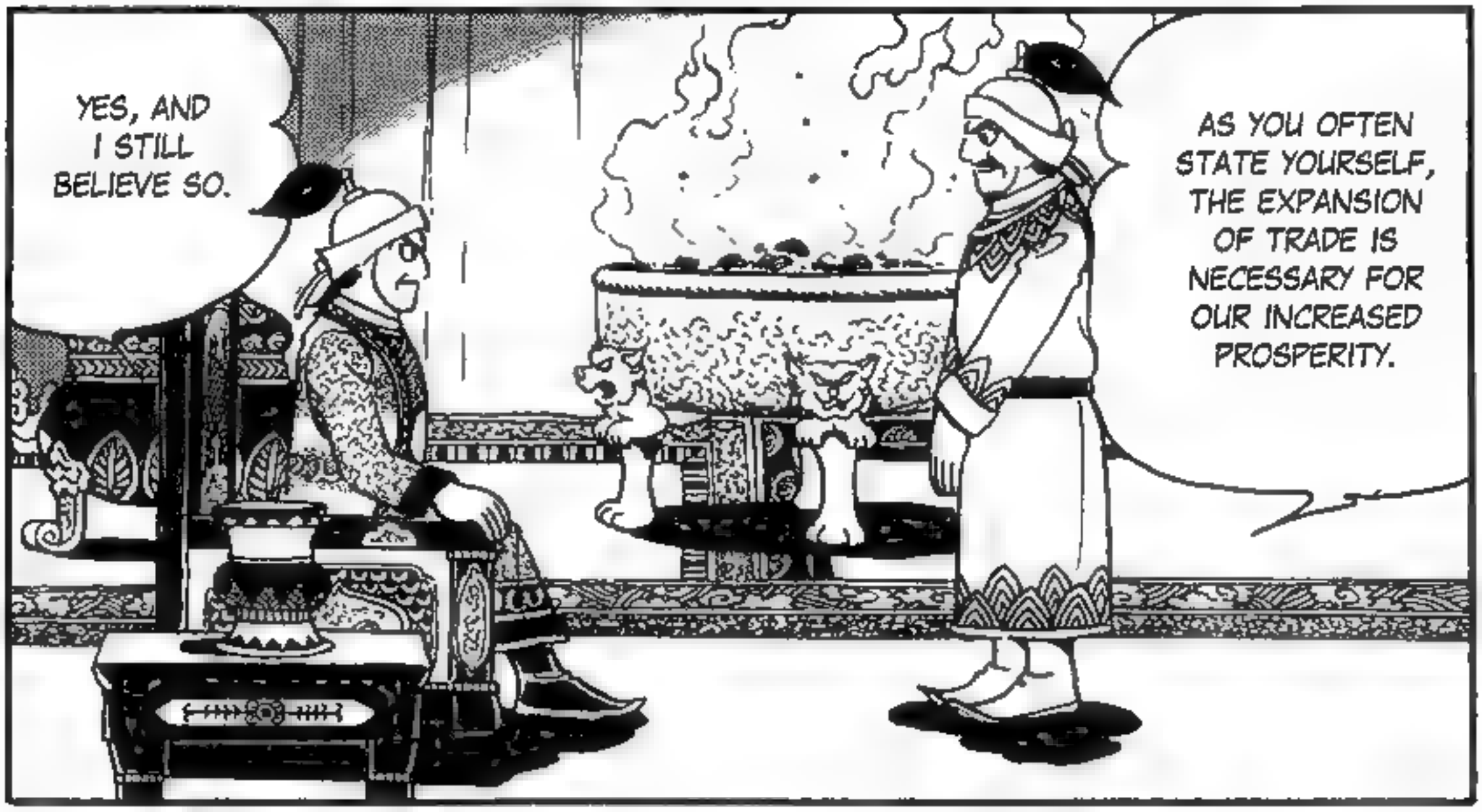
TRUE, THOSE WALLS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME. THUS, INSTEAD OF ATTACKING FROM THE NORTH, LET US ENTER FROM THEIR WEST BY PASSING THROUGH THE WESTERN XIA.

BUT THE JIN POSSESSES IMMENSE RESOURCES AND MANPOWER. THOROUGH PREPARATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO ATTACK IT. FOR INSTANCE, HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE PASS THROUGH THEIR SERIES OF FORTIFIED WALLS ALONG THEIR NORTHERN BORDERS?

THROUGH THE WESTERN XIA!?



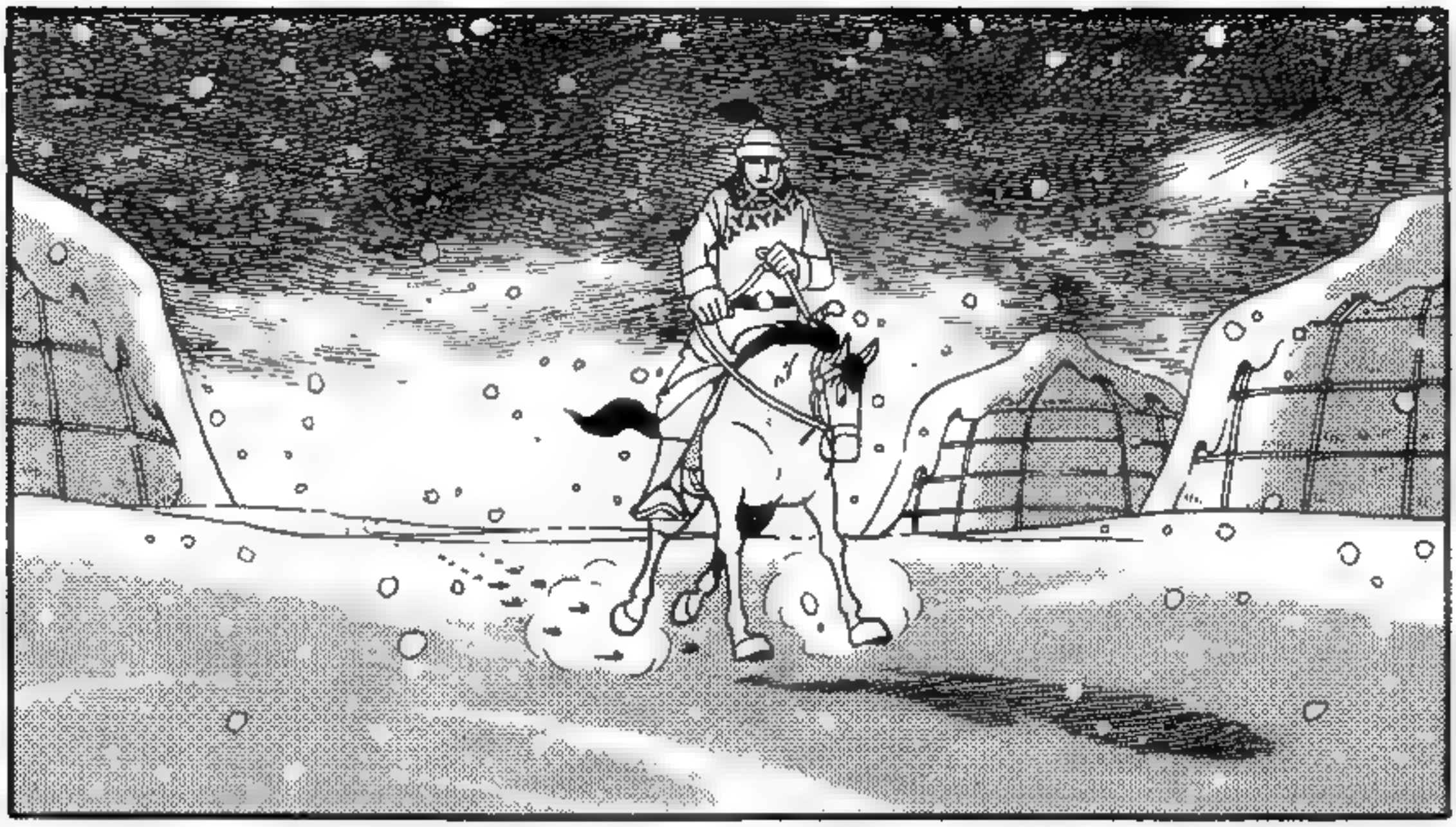

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN, BUT TAKING THE LANDS OF THE TANGUTS ARE NOT JUST TO STAGE A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE JIN.
SO WE SHOULD CONQUER WESTERN XIA BEFORE ATTACKING THE JIN?


YES, AND I STILL BELIEVE SO.
AS YOU OFTEN STATE YOURSELF, THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IS NECESSARY FOR OUR INCREASED PROSPERITY.

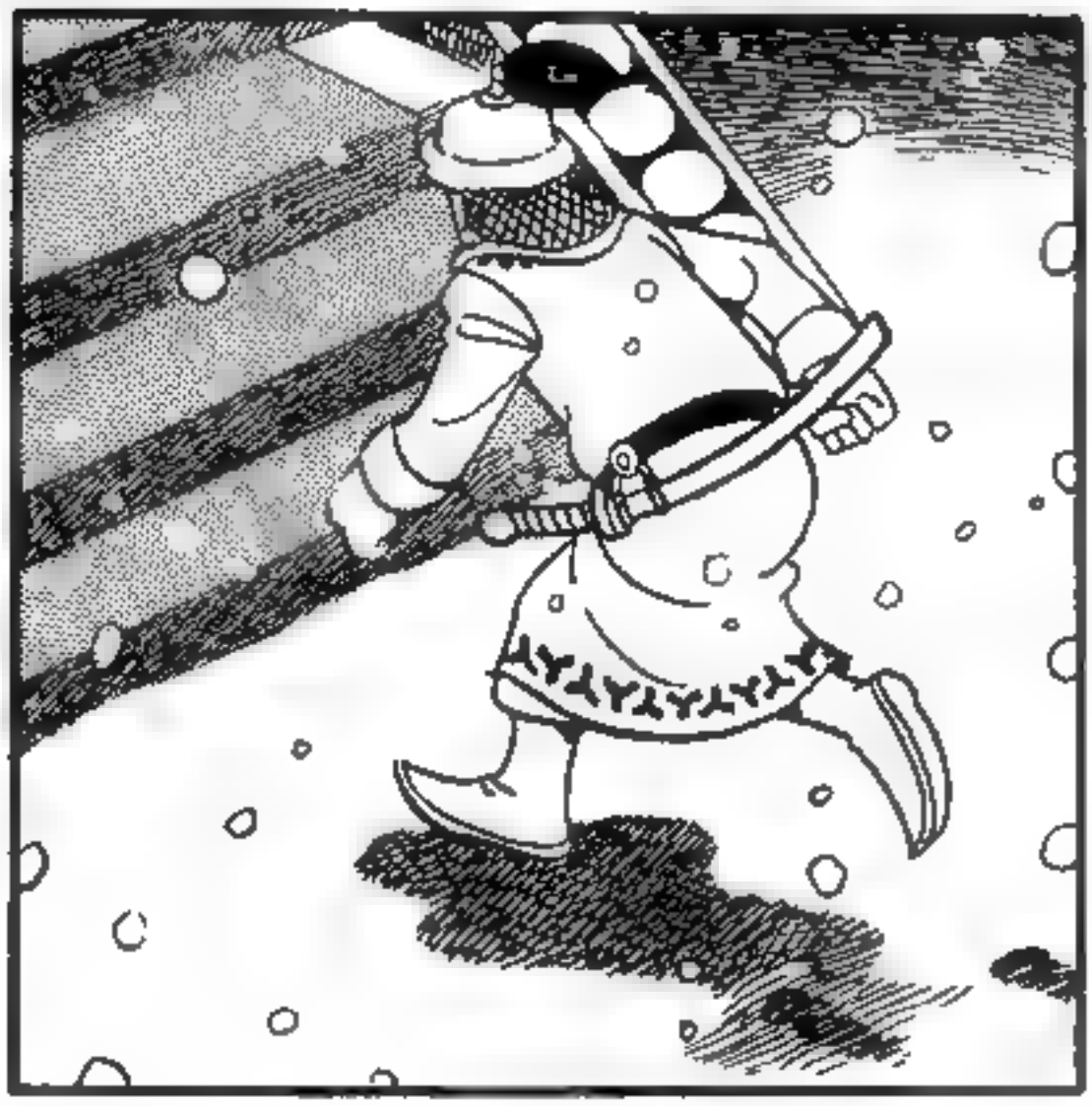
I SEE.

TRADE ROUTES FROM THE FAR WEST ALL PASS THROUGH WESTERN XIA. HENCE, ITS LANDS WILL FULFIL OUR DUAL PURPOSES OF TRADE EXPANSION AND REVENGE ON THE JIN.

VERY WELL, I THANK ALL YOU MEN FOR OFFERING YOUR ADVICE. THE MORNING CONFERENCE WILL NOW END, AS I WILL NEED TIME ALONE TO SERIOUSLY PONDER THIS MATTER.



I BRING AN URGENT REPORT!



MY MOTHER HAS WHAT!?

YOUR MOTHER HÖ'ELUN'S CONDITION HAS TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE!

BRING ME MY HORSE!

MOTHER! MOTHER, PLEASE STAY STRONG!

I SEE MY CHILDREN ARE ALL HERE...

DO NOT SPEAK SUCH FRAIL WORDS, MOTHER!

I AM NOW AT AN AGE WHEN THE HEAVENS CALL FOR ME. SUCH IS LIFE, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO MOURN.

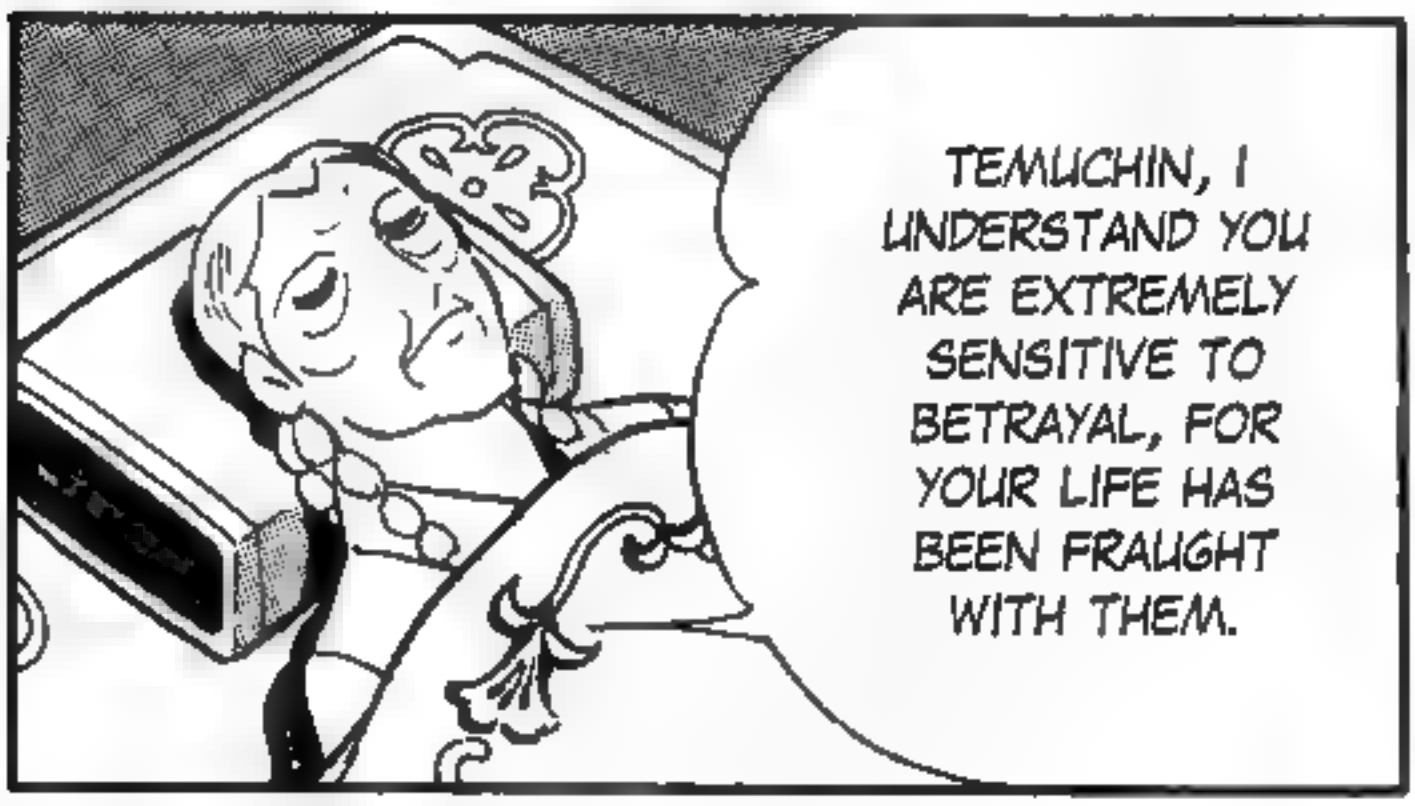
NAY, IT IS ONLY I WHO HAVE CAUSED UNNECESSARY GRIEF FOR MY POOR MOTHER.

I'VE PLACED SUCH A GREAT BURDEN ON YOU IN ALL THESE YEARS, HAVEN'T I, TEMUCHIN...?

YES, MOTHER.

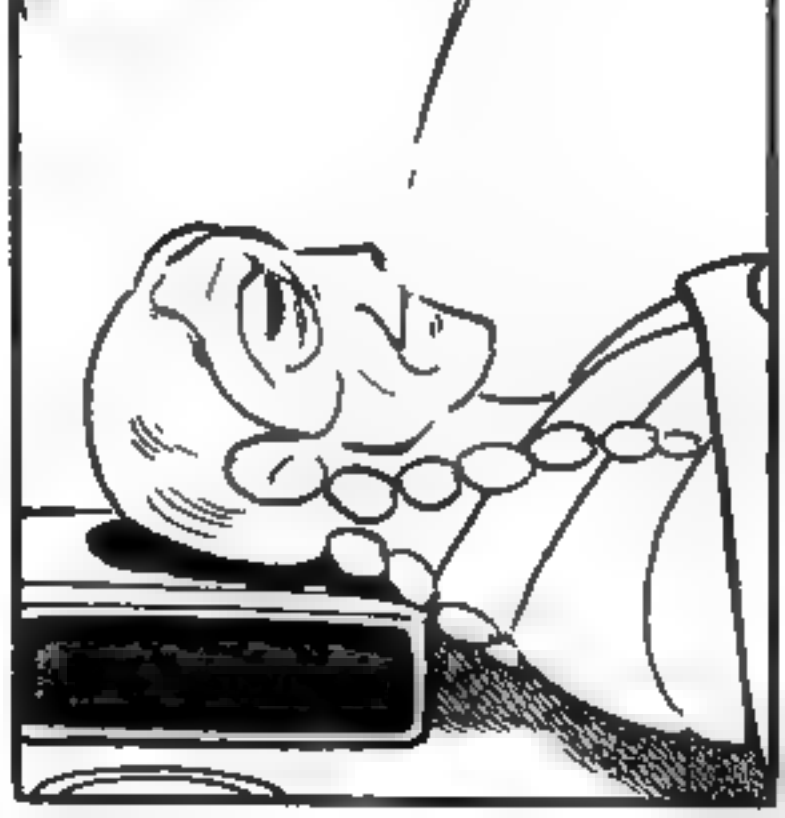
AHH... WE HAVE BOTH ENDURED MANY HARDSHIPS...

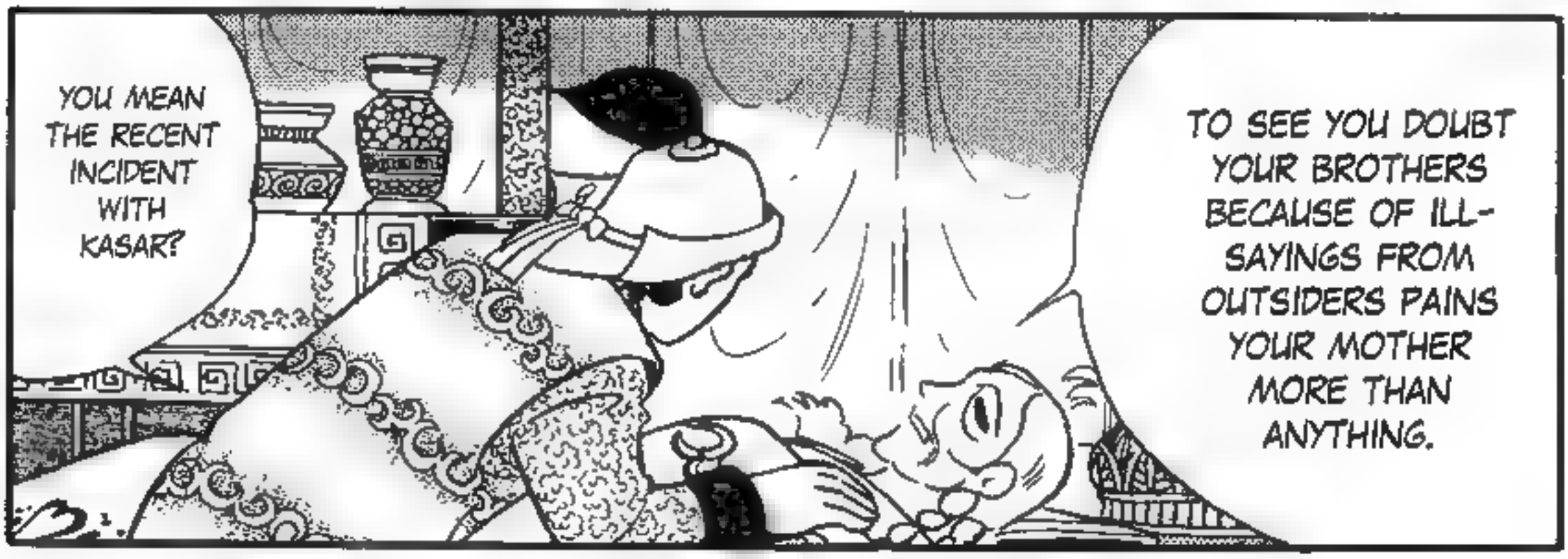
BUT TEMUCHIN, IT IS NOT ONLY US TWO WHO HAVE ENDURED MANY HARDSHIPS.


TEMUCHIN, I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO BETRAYAL, FOR YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN FRAUGHT WITH THEM.

OUR HARDSHIPS WERE SHARED BY OUR FAMILY AS A WHOLE.

BUT ALL MY SONS HAVE UNQUESTIONINGLY CARRIED OUR YOUR ORDERS IN YOUR QUEST TO UNITE THE STEPPE.




YOU MEAN THE RECENT INCIDENT WITH KASAR?
TO SEE YOU DOUBT YOUR BROTHERS BECAUSE OF ILL-SAYINGS FROM OUTSIDERS PAINS YOUR MOTHER MORE THAN ANYTHING.

I UNDERSTAND, MOTHER. I APOLOGIZE EARNESTLY.

YES, YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER KASAR HAS WORKED HARDER THAN ANYONE FOR YOUR SAKE. TO THINK THAT HE WOULD CONSPIRE AGAINST YOU FOR POWER AND STATUS IS...

YOUR BROTHER HAS UNITED ALL THE TRIBES OF THE STEPPE, A FEAT THAT NONE BEFORE HAS ACCOMPLISHED. AS LOFTY AS THE POSITION HE HAS NOW RISEN TO, HIS DOUBTS AND WORRIES ARE EQUALLY LARGE.

KASAR.

YES, MOTHER?

I WILL FOREVER HEED YOUR WORDS.

YOU MUST TAKE GREAT CAUTION TO NEVER GIVE ANY REASON FOR YOUR BROTHER TO DOUBT YOU. HELP HIM EARNESTLY AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE.

YES, MOTHER?

YES?

TEMUCHIN, KASAR.

JOIN YOUR HANDS TOGETHER.

LIKE SO, MOTHER?

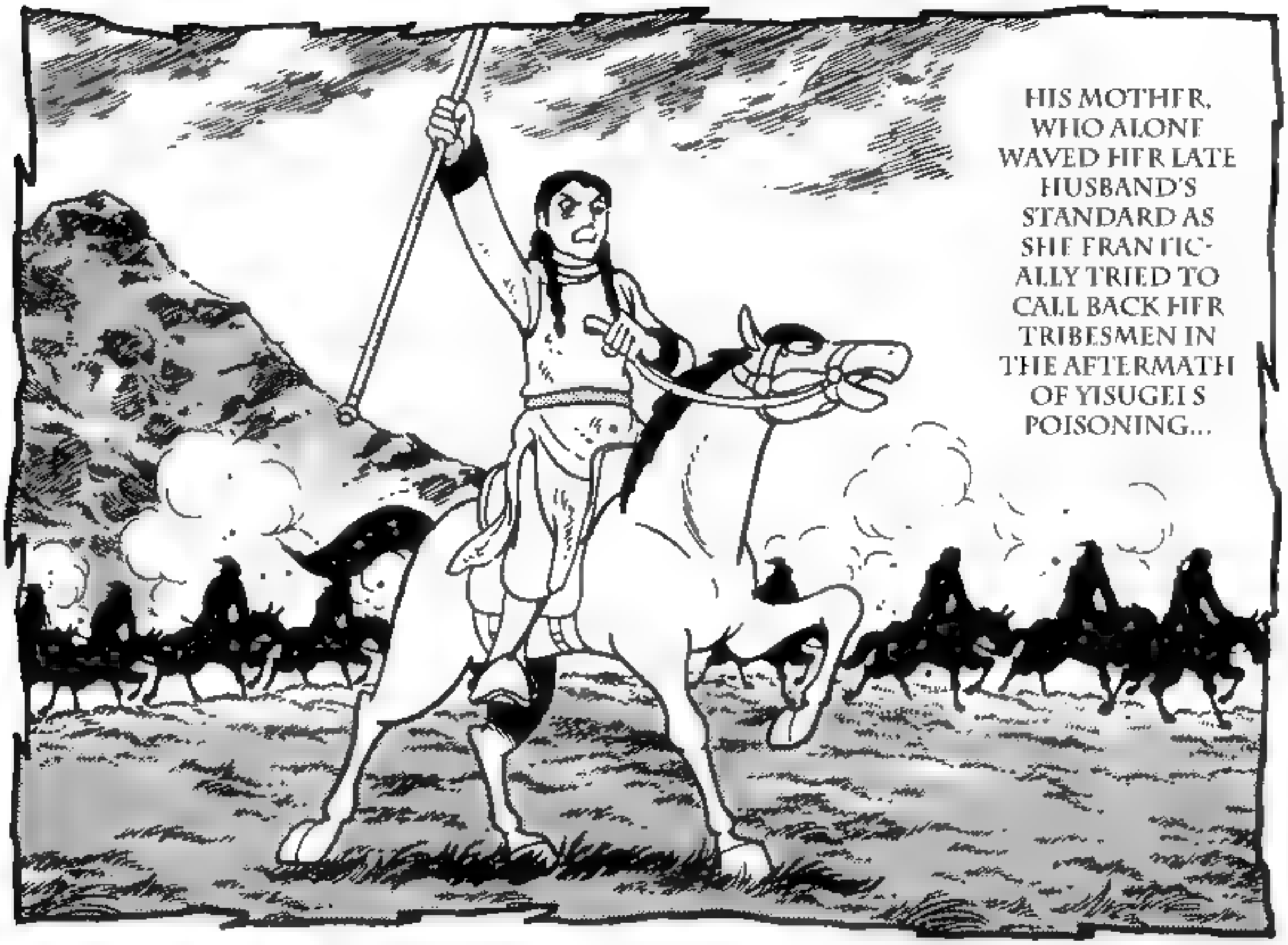
YES... THAT IS WHAT I HAVE WISHED TO SEE ABOVE ALL ELSE. I CAN NOW FINALLY RETIRE TO THE HEAVENS WITH NO REGRETS.

BUT THE ONCE HARDY MOTHER HAD DRAWN HER LAST BREATH

MOTHER!

MOTHER!

AS TEARS STREAMED DOWN CHINGGIS KHAN'S FACE, MEMORIES OF HIS MOTHER'S HARDSHIPS FLICKERED THROUGH HIS MIND.

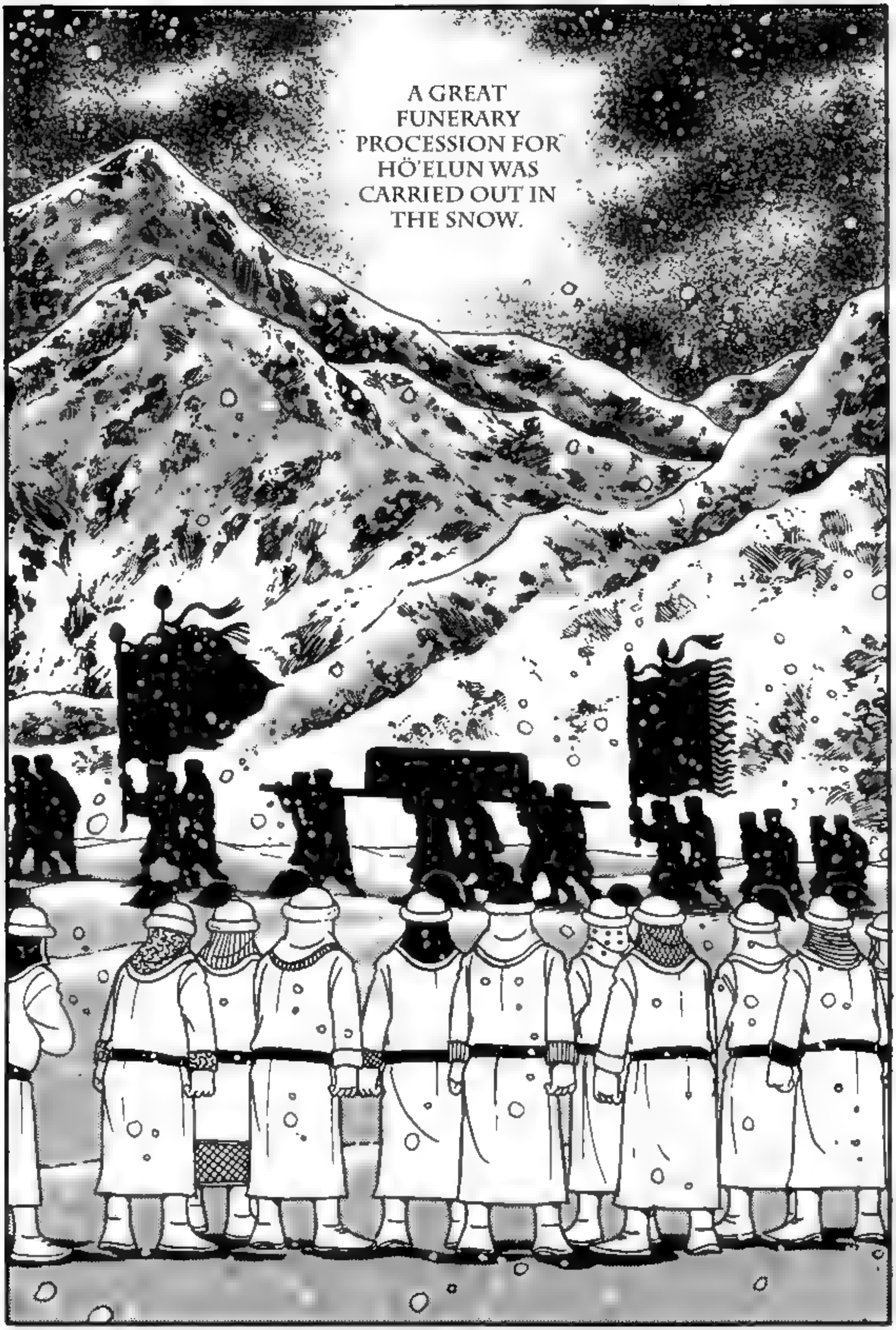

HIS MOTHER, WHO ALONE WAVED HER LATE HUSBAND'S STANDARD AS SHE FRANTIC-ALLY TRIED TO CALL BACK HER TRIBESMEN IN THE AFTERMATH OF YISUGEI'S POISONING...

HIS MOTHER, WHO WORKED WITHOUT REST TO SEE THAT HER CHILDREN'S MOUTHS WERE FED...

HIS MOTHER, WHO EXPLODED IN RAGE AFTER HE MURDERED BEKHTER..

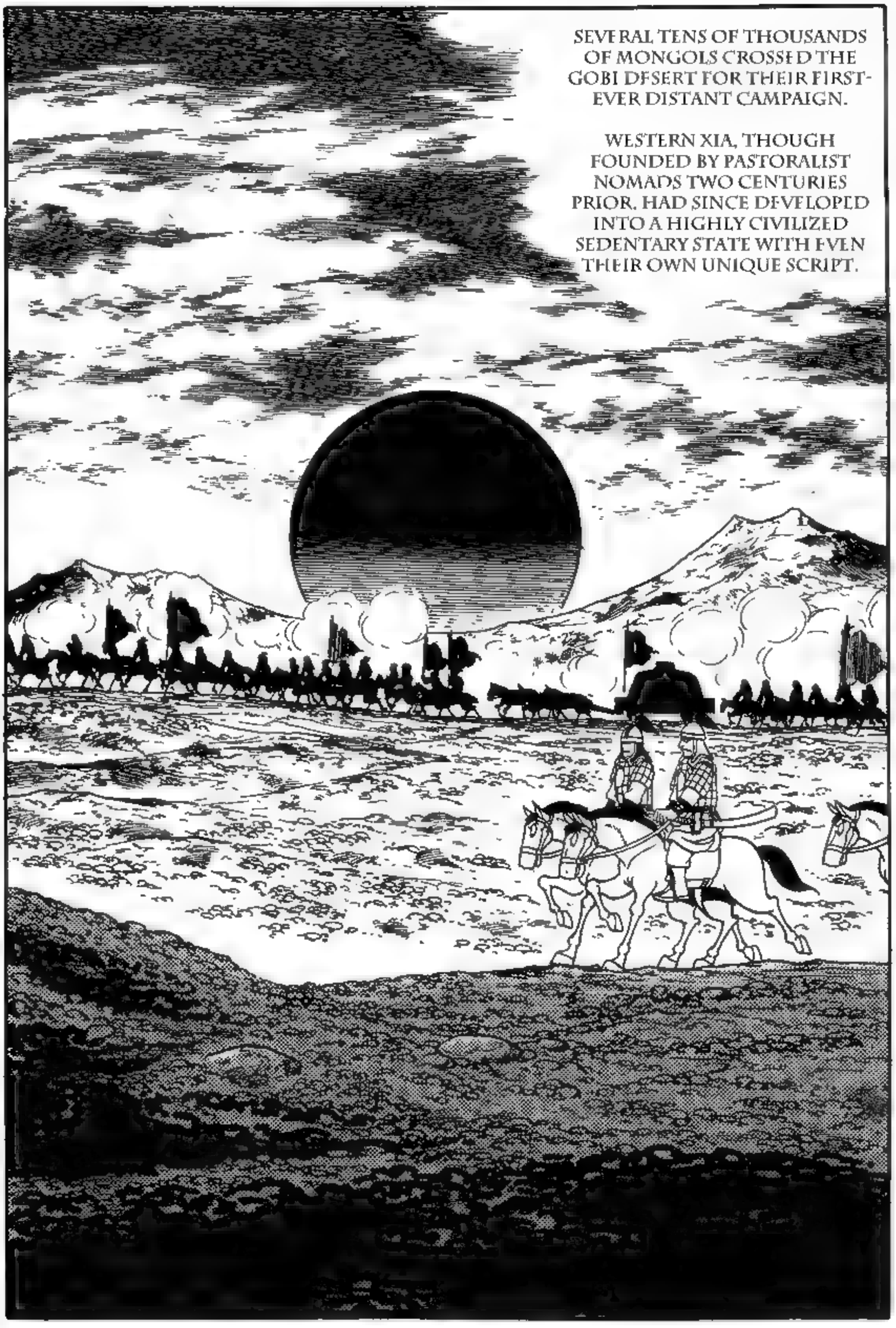
WE HAVE NO COMPANIONS EXCEPT OUR SHADOWS AND ONLY A HORSE'S TAIL FOR A WHIP! AT A TIME WHEN OUR STOMACHS ARE EMPTY BUT OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH RESENTMENT, YOU ASK "HOW CAN I LIVE WITH MY BROTHERS," INSTEAD OF ASKING, "HOW CAN I PUNISH THE TAICHI'UT?"

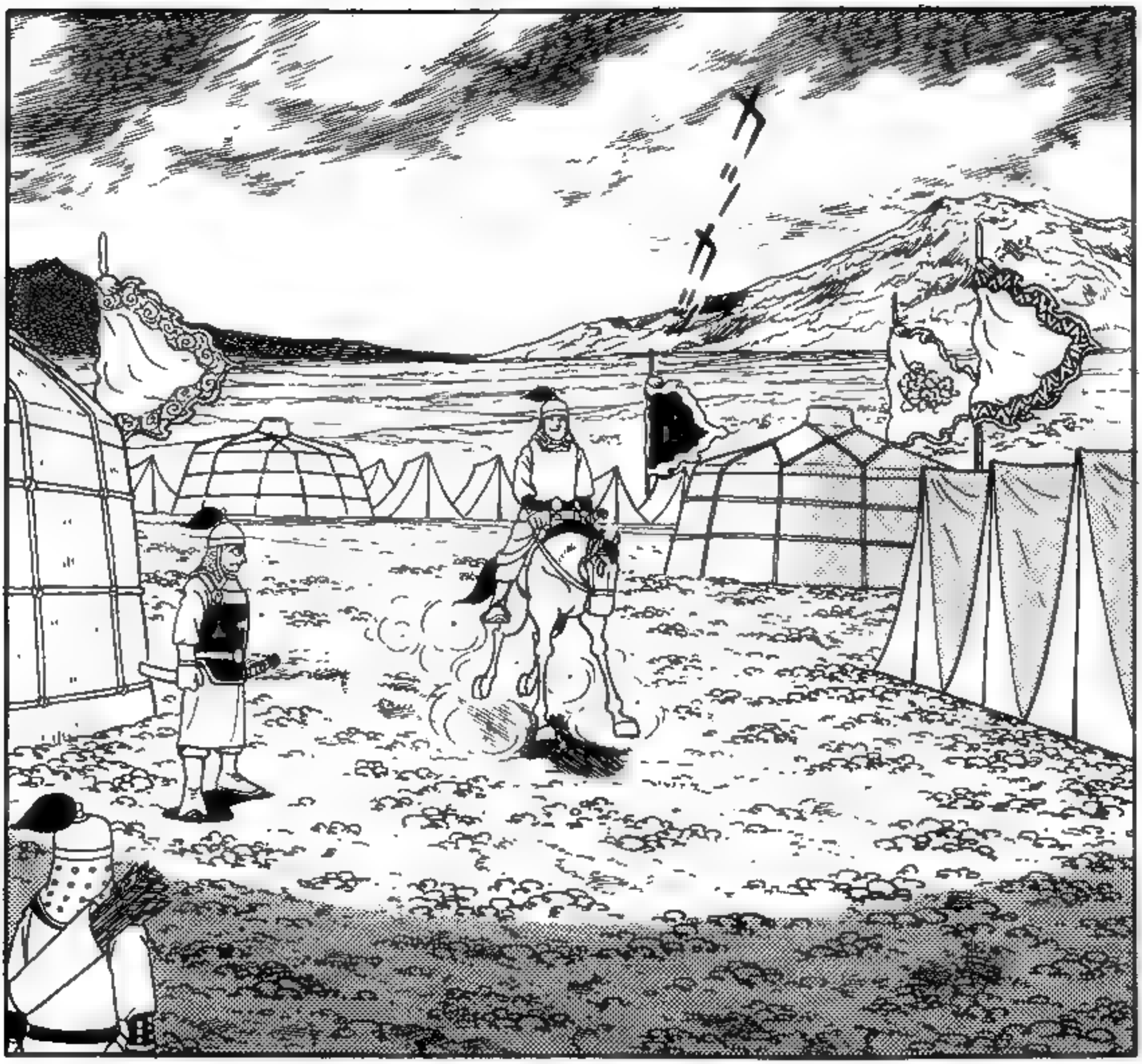
HIS FIRECELY DETERMINED MOTHER, WHOM HE RESPECTED AND FEARED ABOVE ALL ..
THE GREAT KHAN BURST INTO TEARS AND WAILED.
MOTHERRRRR!


A GREAT FUNERARY PROCESSION FOR HÖ'ELUN WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE SNOW.

Western Xia Campaign

1209 AD.
IN ORDER TO SET THE STAGE FOR FUTURE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE JIN, CHINGGIS KHAN MOBILIZED HIS TROOPS TO SUBJUGATE WESTERN XIA.


SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MONGOLS CROSSED THE GOBI DESERT FOR THEIR FIRST-EVER DISTANT CAMPAIGN.
WESTERN XIA, THOUGH FOUNDED BY PASTORALIST NOMADS TWO CENTURIES PRIOR, HAD SINCE DEVELOPED INTO A HIGHLY CIVILIZED SEDENTARY STATE WITH EVEN THEIR OWN UNIQUE SCRIPT.



SO THEY'VE SALLIED FORTH?

THE ENEMIES HAVE MARCHED OUT FROM THEIR FORT WITH AN ARMY, CHINGGIS KHAN.

JEBE, MUKALI, KHUBILAI.

YES?

YES?

YES?

YES, KHAN.

JEBE, TO YOU I WILL GIVE 30,000 TROOPS TO LURE THE ENEMIES FURTHER OUT BEFORE TURNING AROUND AND ATTACKING FROM THE NORTH.

YES, KHAN.

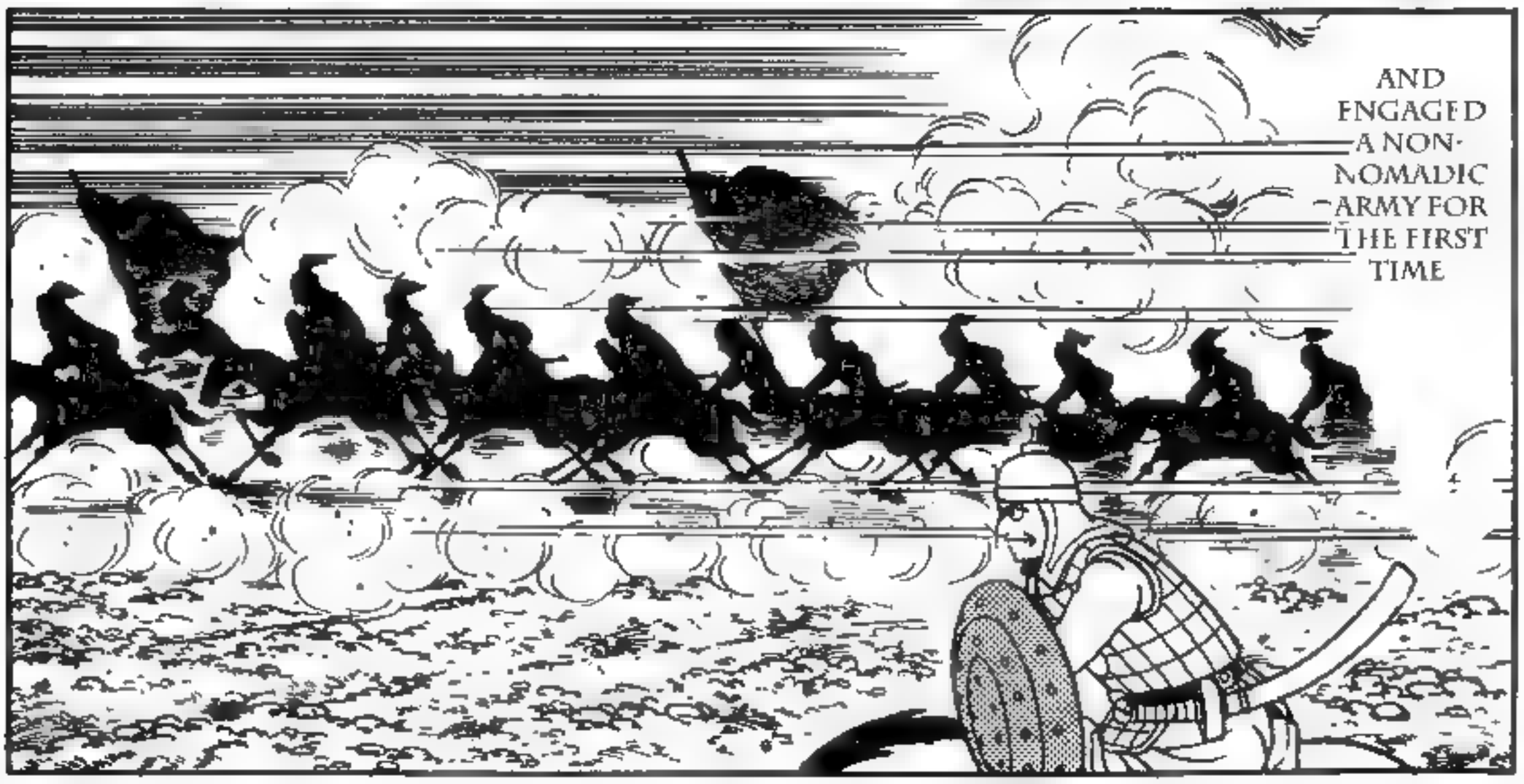
MUKALI, I WILL ALSO GIVE YOU 30,000 TROOPS. YOU WILL ATTACK FROM THE WEST.

YES, KHAN.

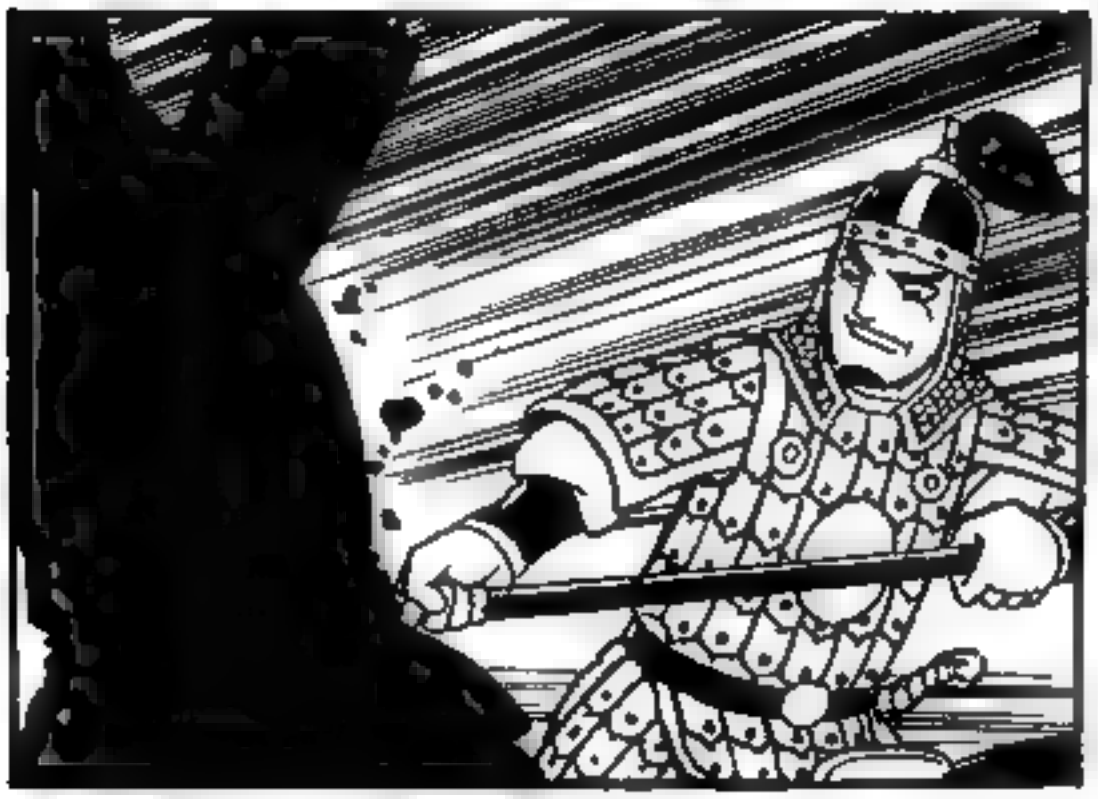
KHUBILAI, YOU WILL ATTACK FROM THE SOUTH WITH 30,000 TROOPS WHEN JEBE LURES THE ENEMIES OUT.

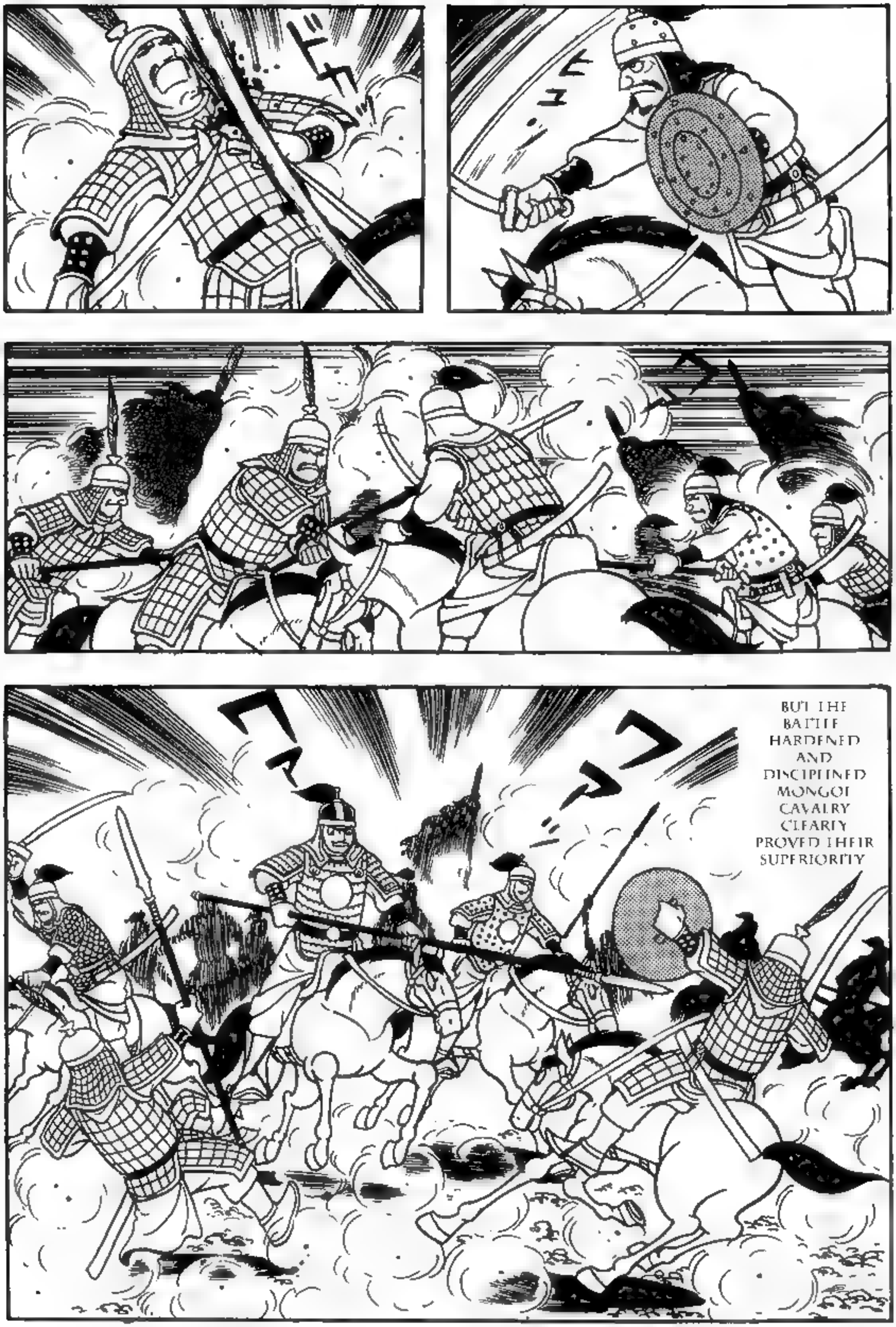
THE YOUNG WOLVES,

EACH TOOK COMMAND OF 30,000 TROOPS,


AND ENGAGED A NON-NOMADIC ARMY FOR THE FIRST TIME

THE TWO ARMIES CLASHED IN THE DESERT.

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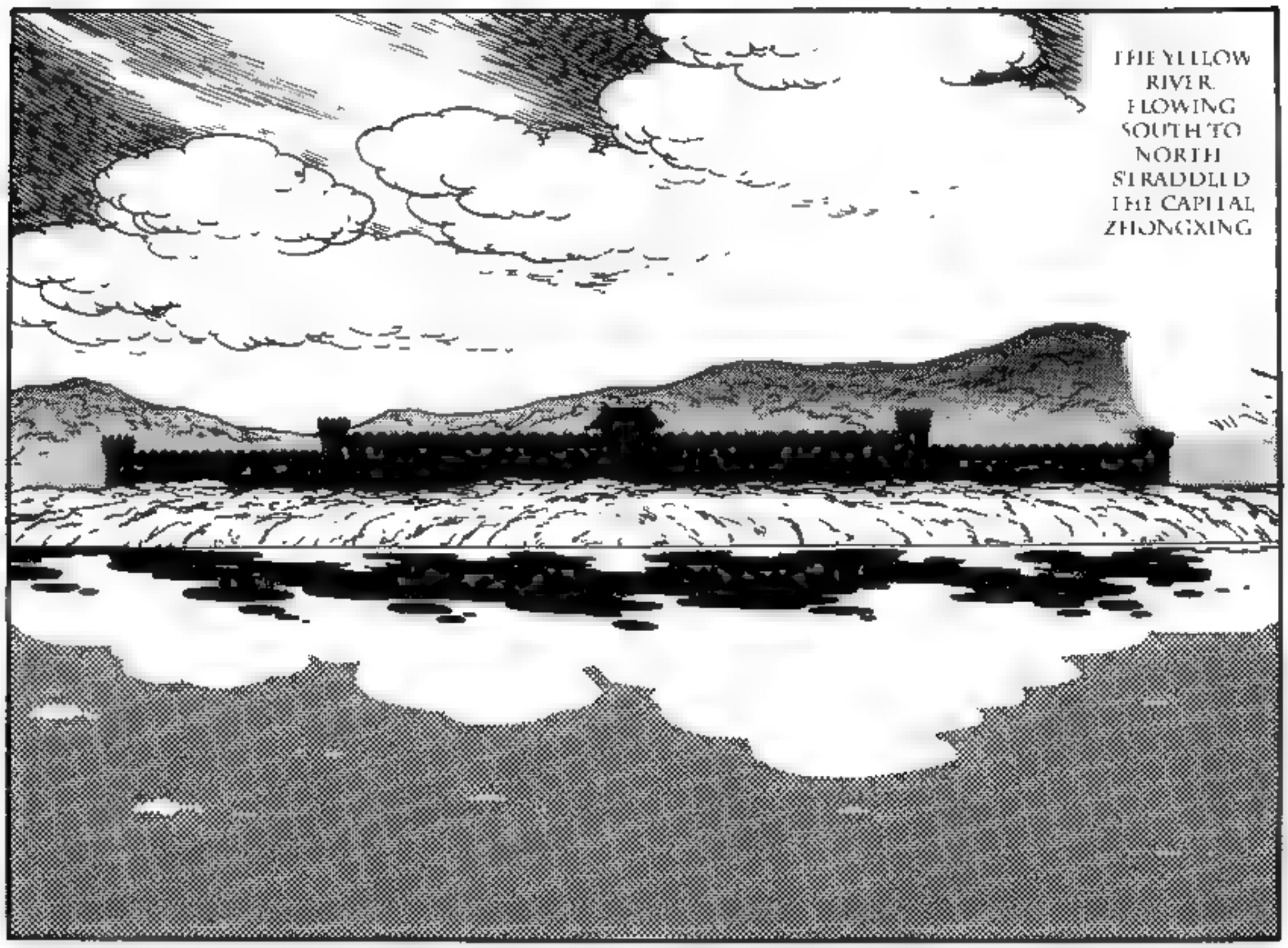
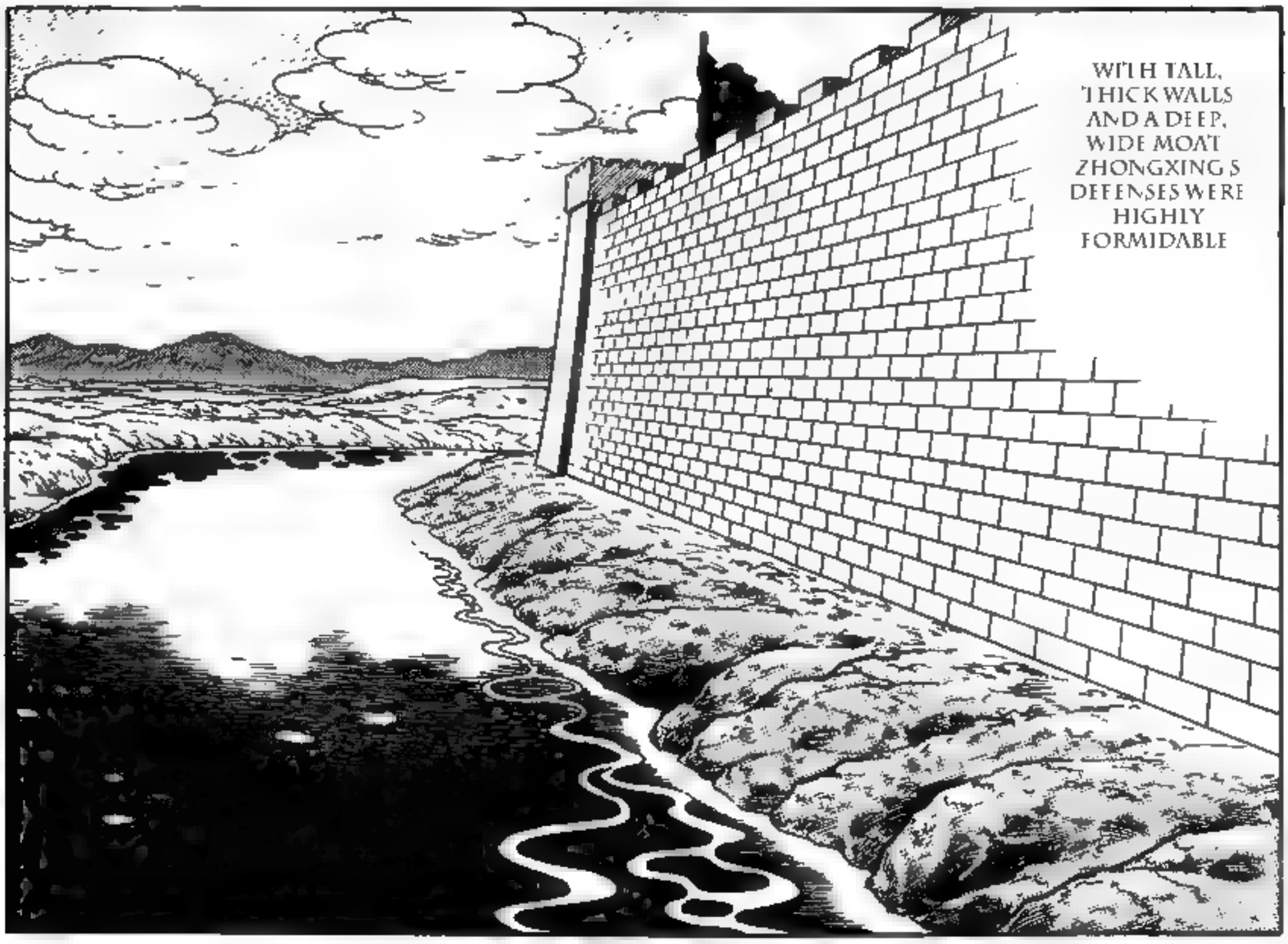
THE WESTERN XIA ARMY WAS ROUTED,

AND THE MONGOLS RODE THE MOMENTUM FROM THIS VICTORY TO PENETRATE ALL THE WAY INTO THEIR CAPITAL, ZHONGXING


THE YELLOW RIVER, FLOWING SOUTH TO NORTH, STRADDLED THE CAPITAL ZHONGXING


WITH TALL, THICK WALLS AND A DEEP, WIDE MOAT, ZHONGXING'S DEFENSES WERE HIGHLY FORMIDABLE

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER HAD TO SIEGE A PROPER-WALLED CITY... HOW SHALL WE PROCEED?

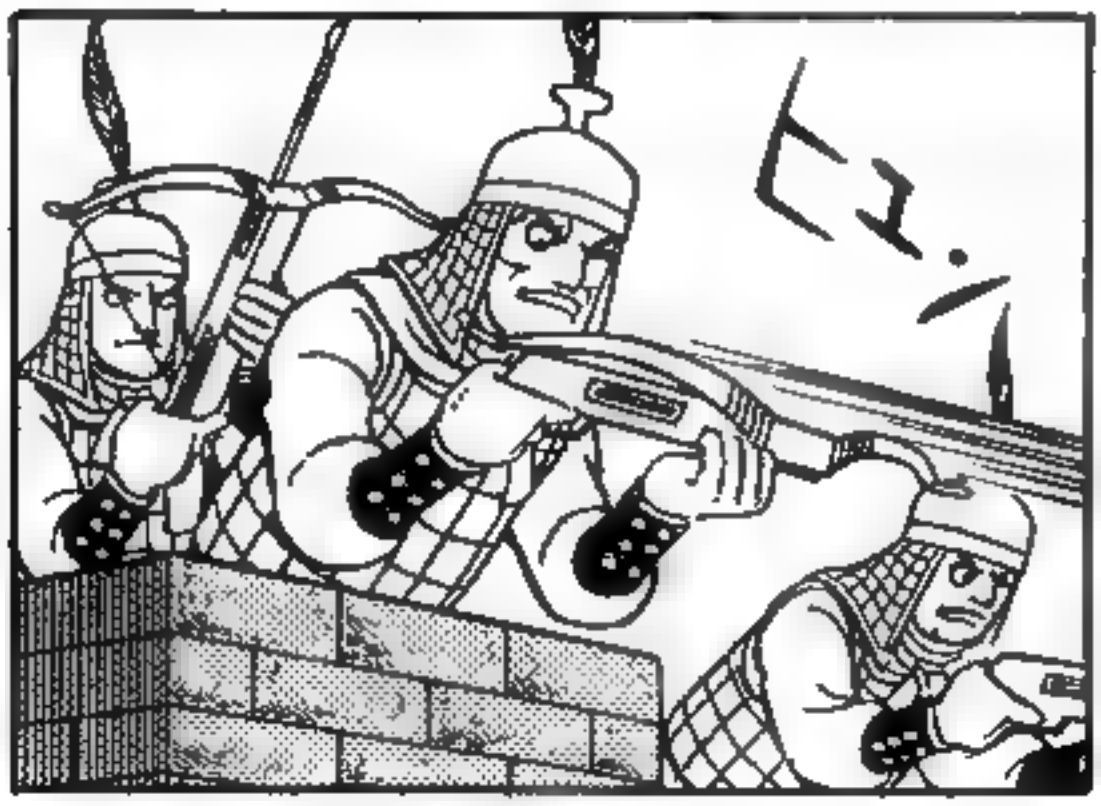
I'M... NOT QUITE SURE EITHER AT THE MOMENT.

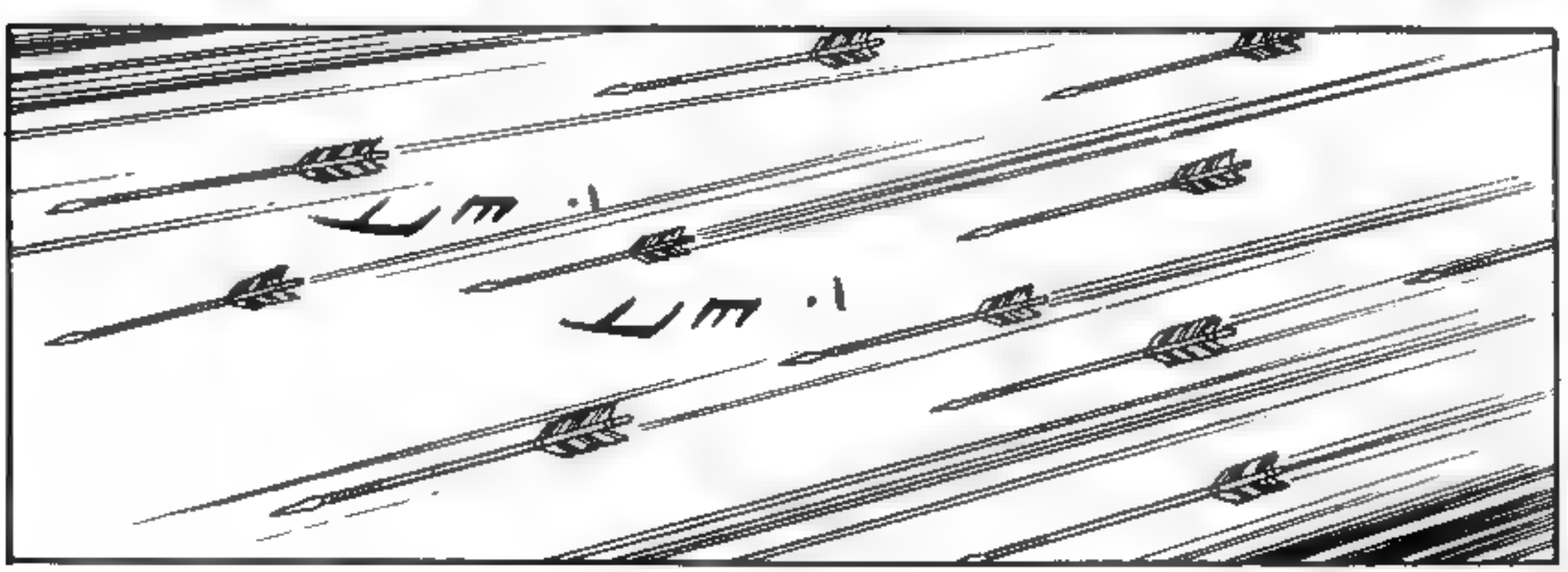
SO THAT IS ZHONGXING...

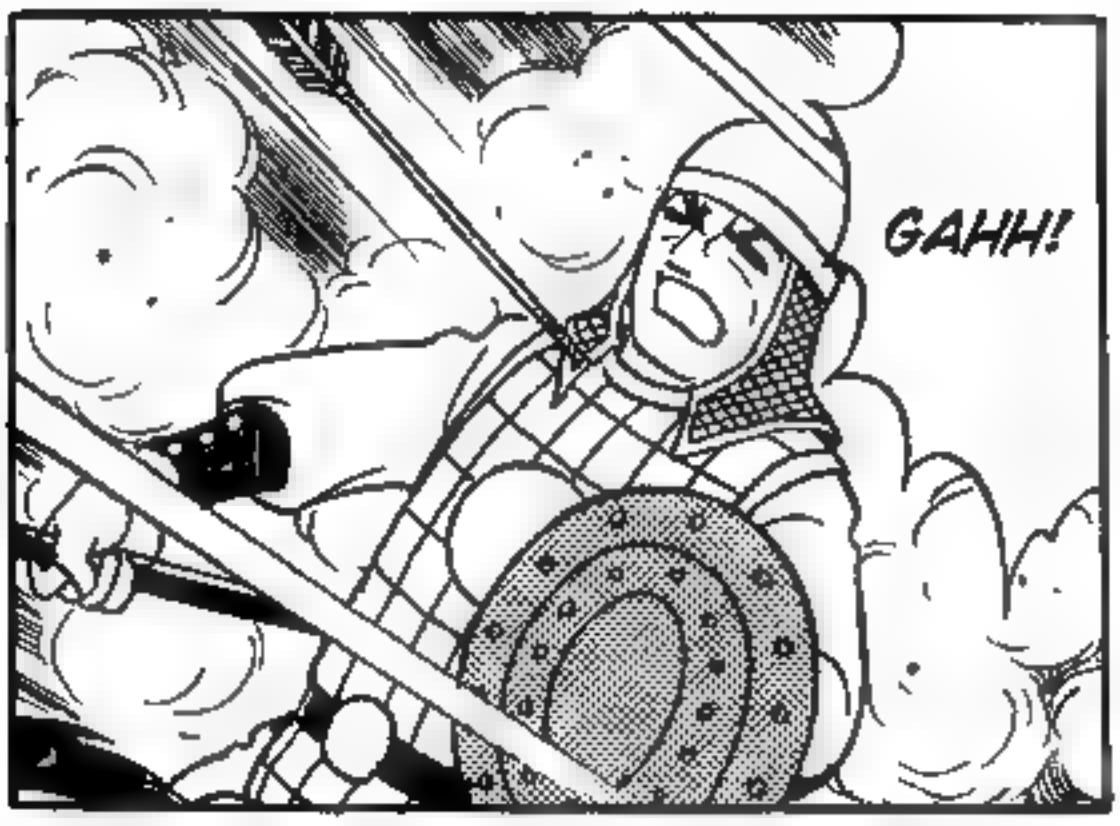
YES, KHAN.

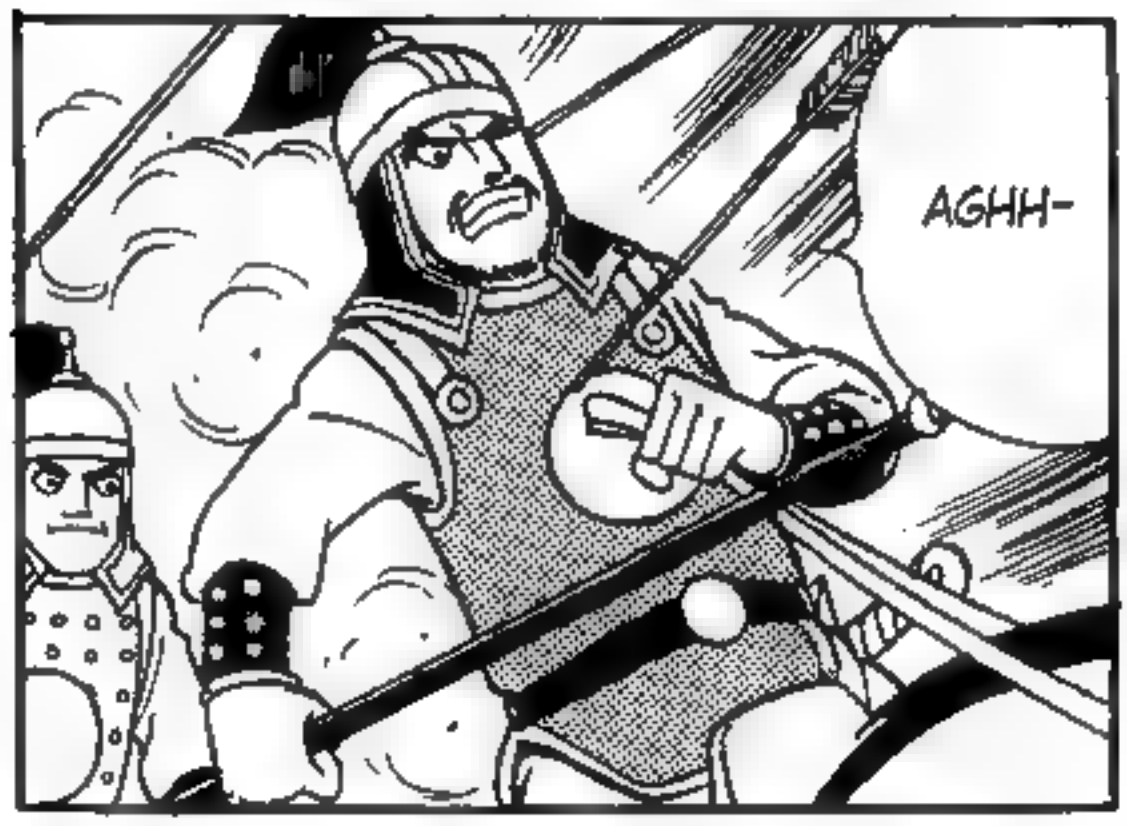
LET US TRY A MINOR TEST ON THEIR DEFENSES THEN.

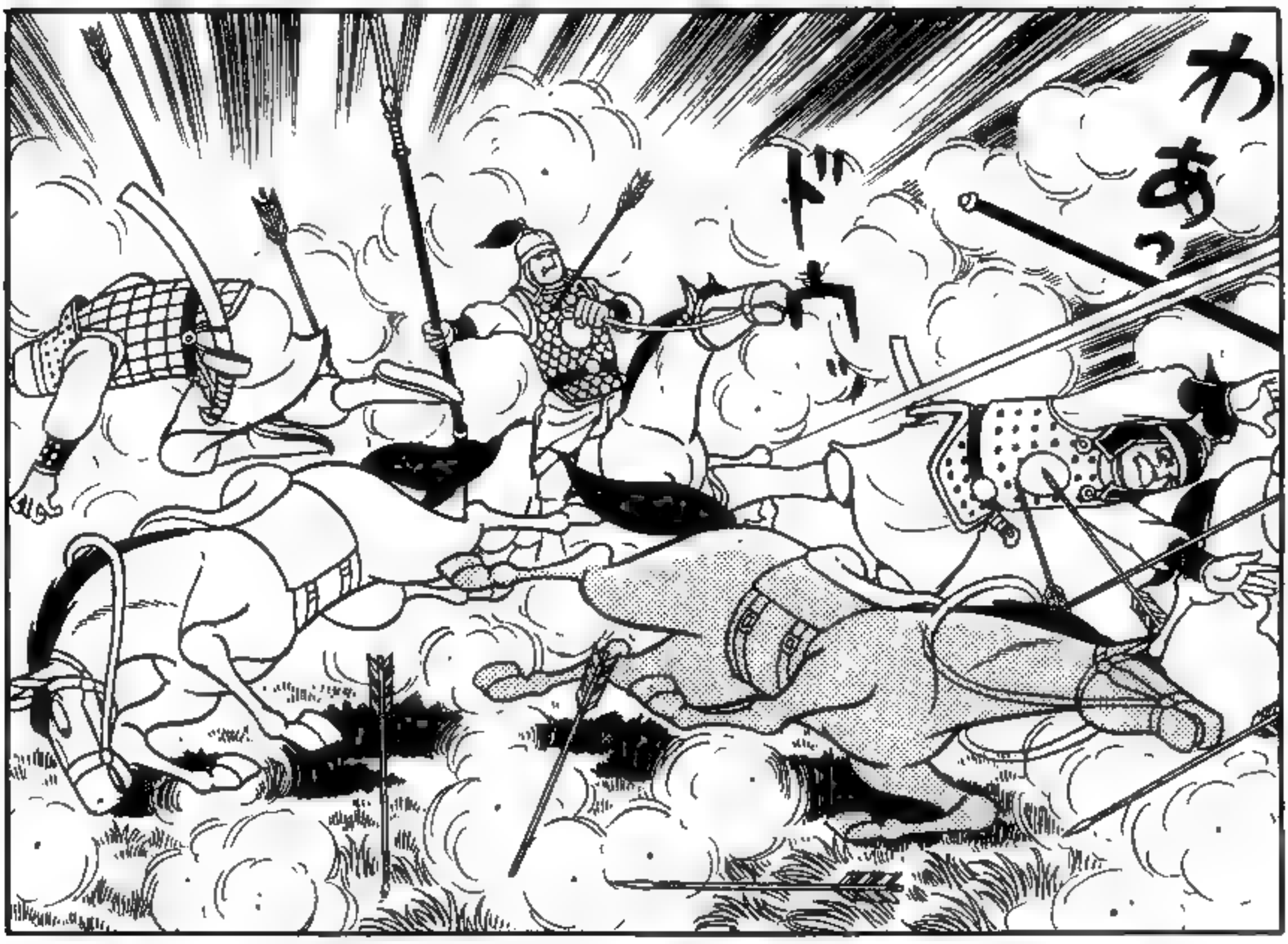
SOUND THE SIGNAL!






GAHH!


AGHH-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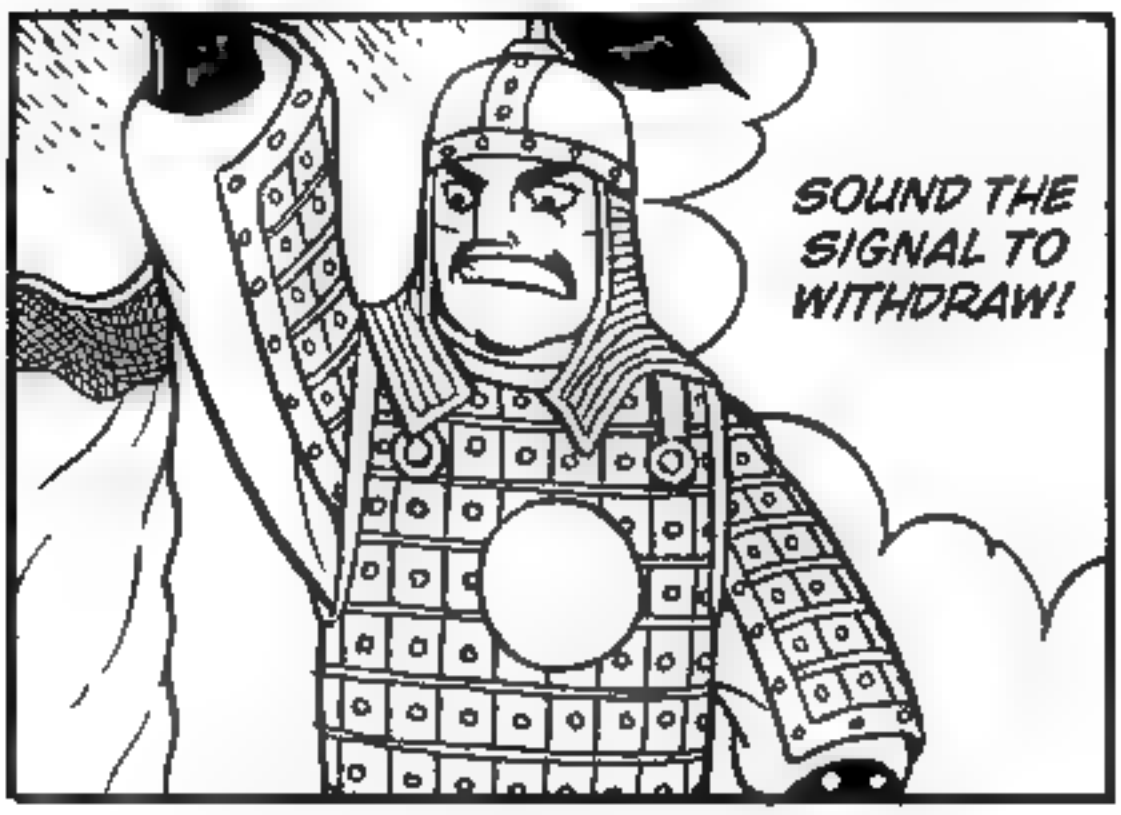

SOUND THE SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW!

CALL OFF THE ATTACK!

WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO APPROACH THE WALLS LIKE THIS, MUCH LESS CAPTURE THE CITY.

WE CANNOT JUST RETREAT EMPTY-HANDED, HAVING COME THIS FAR. DO ANY OF YOU MEN HAVE ANY WISDOM TO OVERCOME OUR CURRENT CHALLENGE?

ONLY A BIRD COULD ENTER THAT CITY NOW...

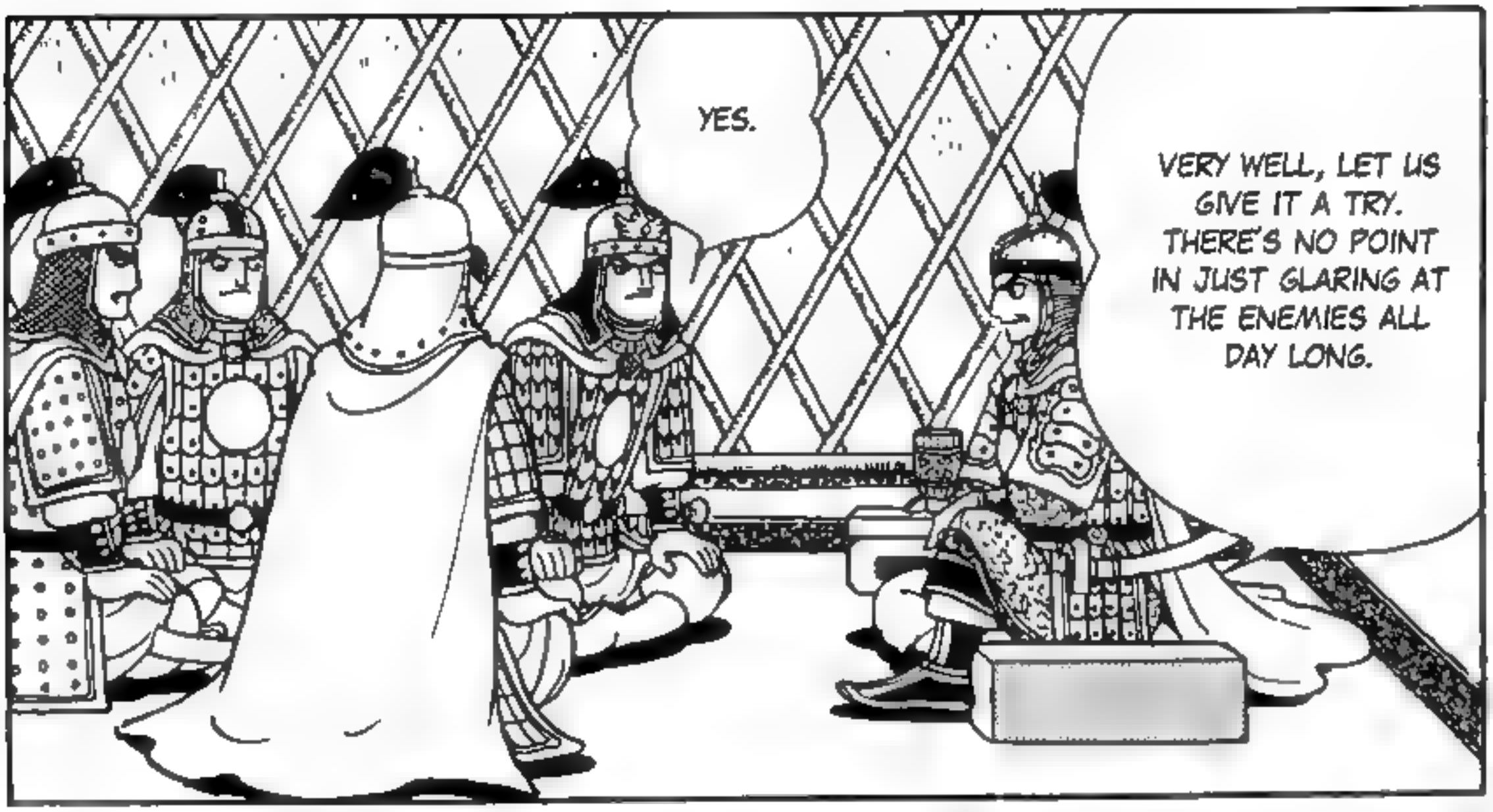
IF ONLY WE COULD LURE THEM OUT, WE'D HAVE MANY WAYS OF DEALING WITH THEM...

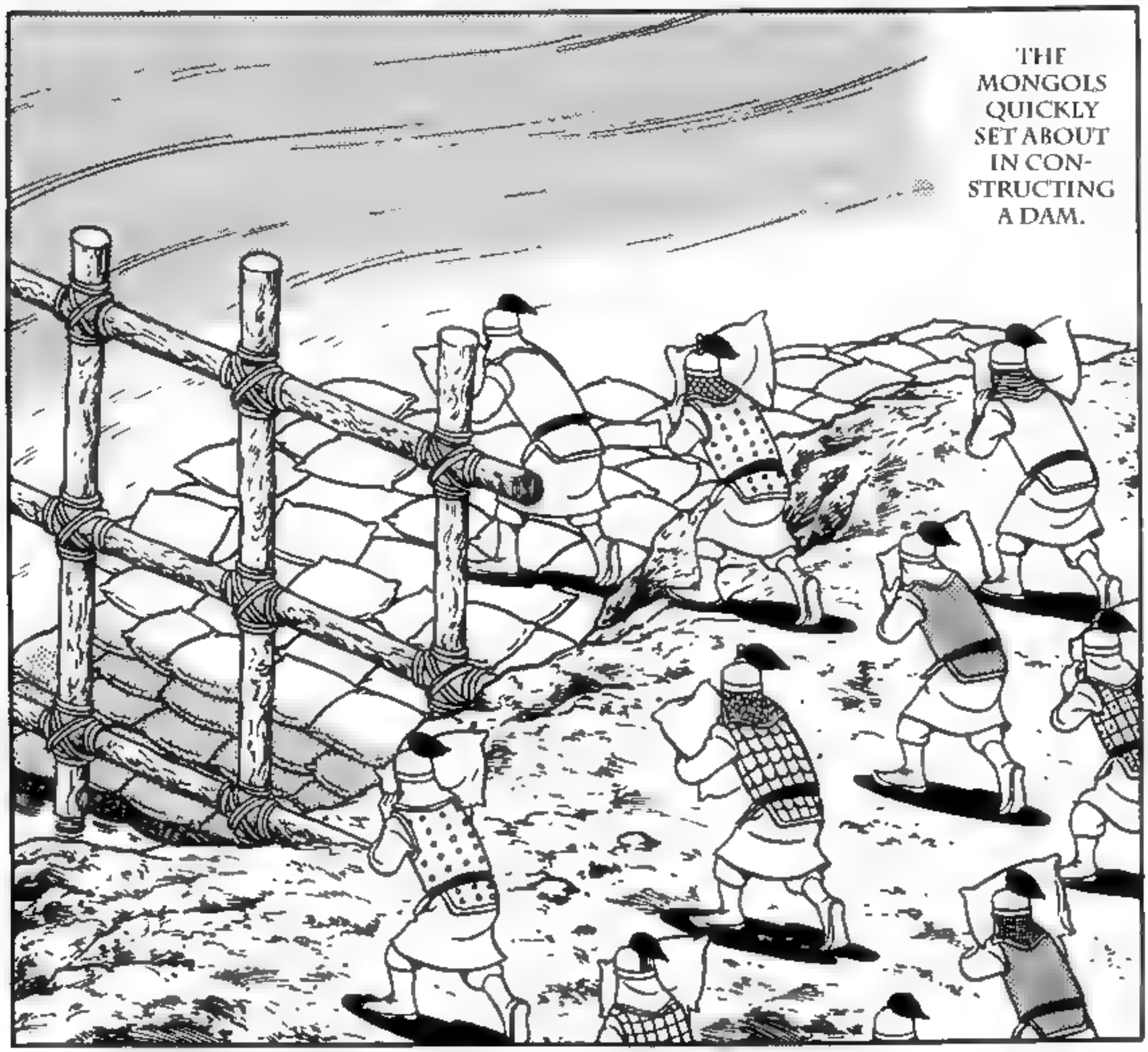
HMM, AN INTERESTING PLAN.

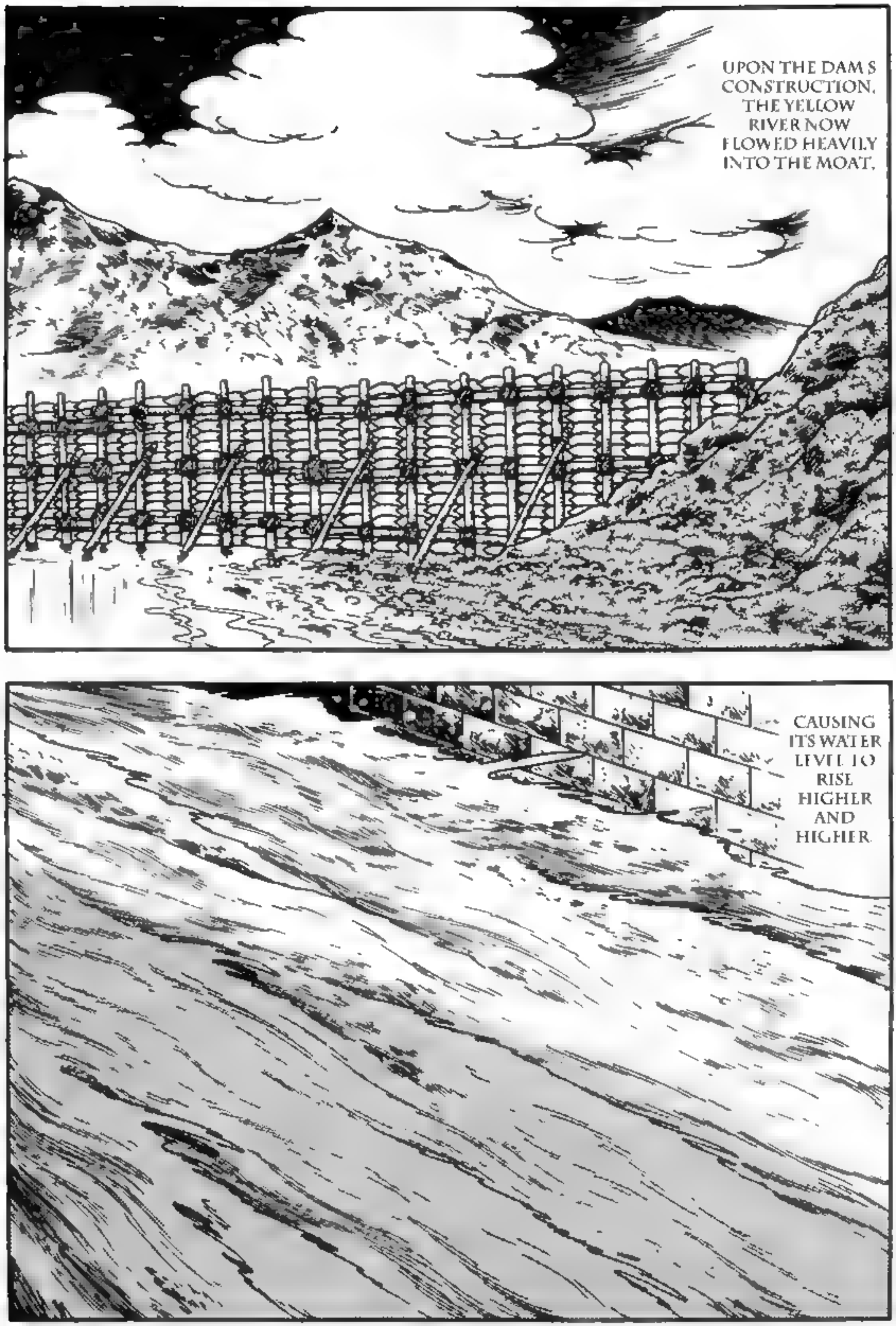
THE MOAT SURROUNDING THE CITY IS CLEARLY MADE BY DIVERTING THE WATER FROM THE NEARBY YELLOW RIVER. WHAT SAY WE DIVERT SOME MORE WATER THAT WAY TO FLOOD THE CITY?

WITH ENOUGH LABOURERS, I BELIEVE SO.

CAN YOU DO IT?


YES.
VERY WELL, LET US GIVE IT A TRY. THERE'S NO POINT IN JUST GLARING AT THE ENEMIES ALL DAY LONG.


THE MONGOLS QUICKLY SET ABOUT IN CON-STRUCTING A DAM.


UPON THE DAM'S CONSTRUCTION, THE YELLOW RIVER NOW FLOWED HEAVILY INTO THE MOAT,
CAUSING ITS WATER LEVEL TO RISE HIGHER AND HIGHER.

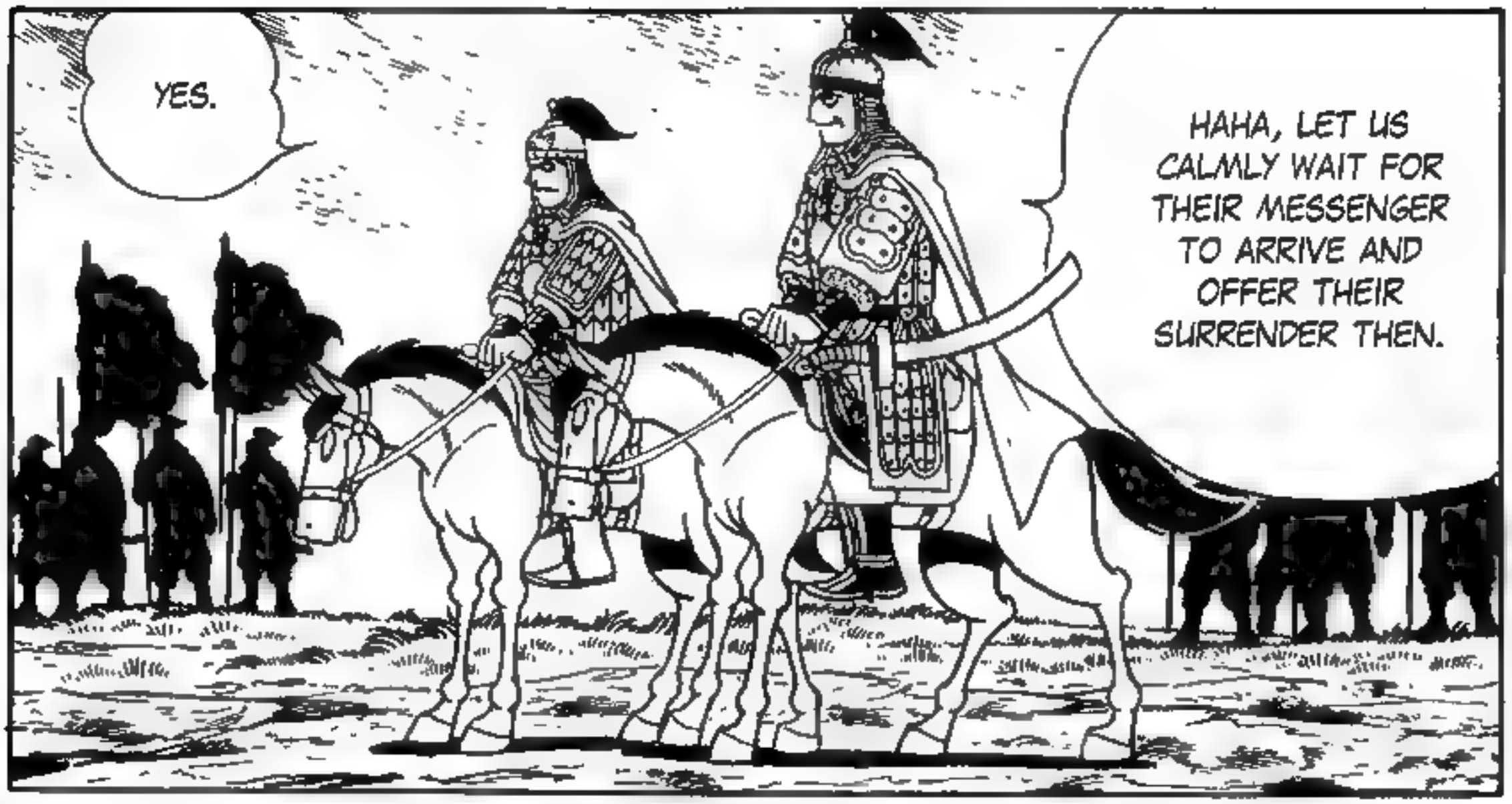
SOON, THE WATER BEGAN TO FLOOD THE CITY INSIDE THE WALLS.

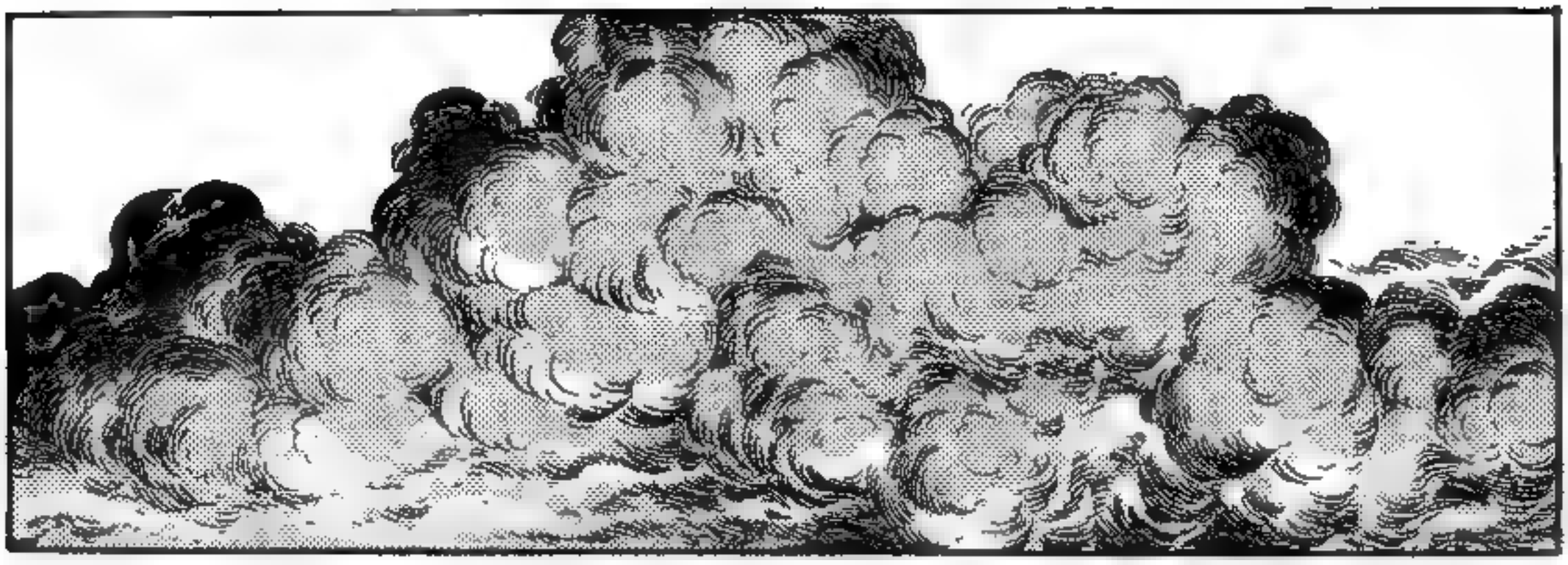
YES, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ZHONGXING IS COMPLETELY FLOODED.

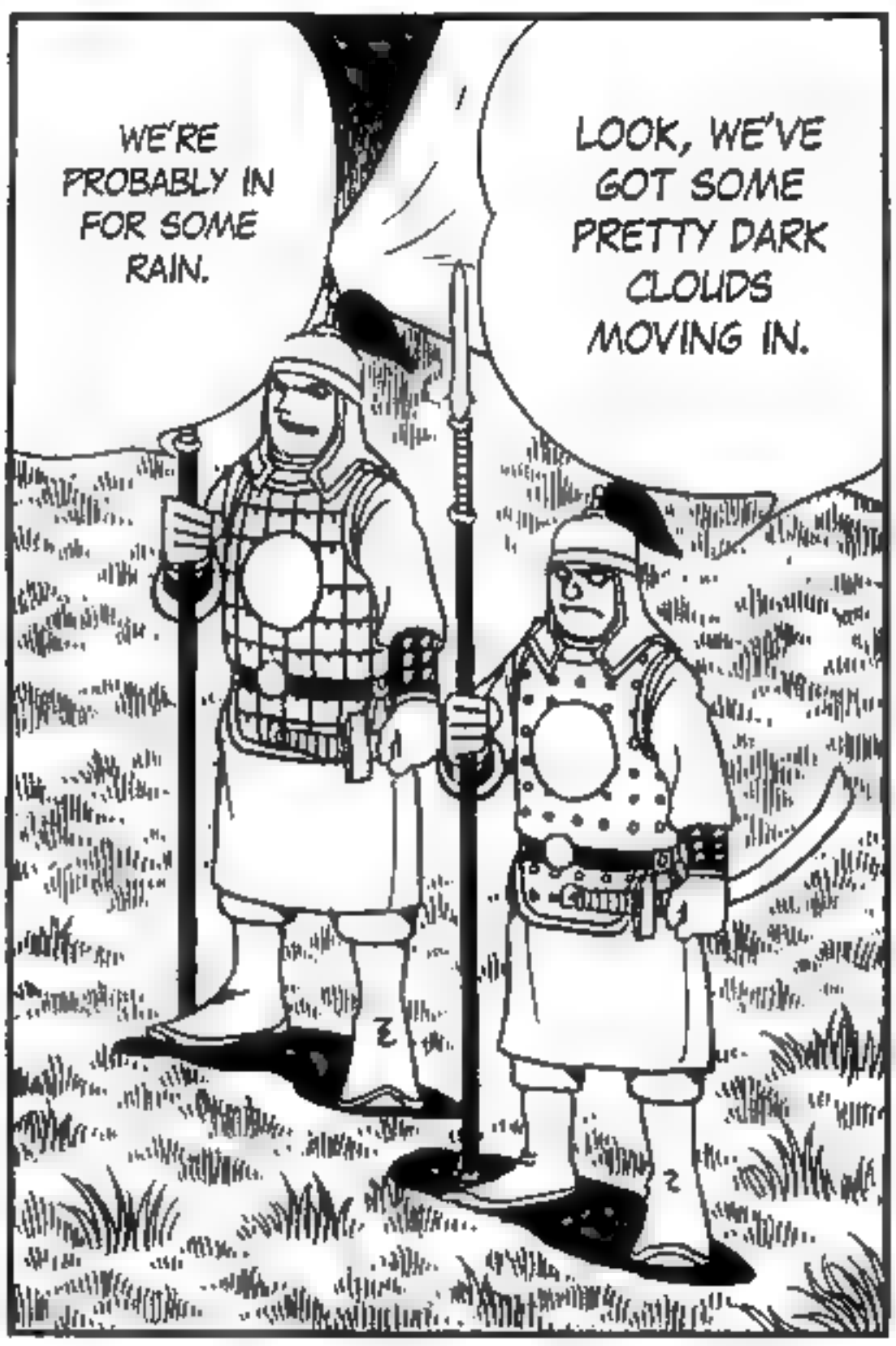
LOOK, THE WATER'S RISING HIGHER AND HIGHER.

IT SHAN'T BE LONG BEFORE WE RECEIVE THEIR SURRENDER.

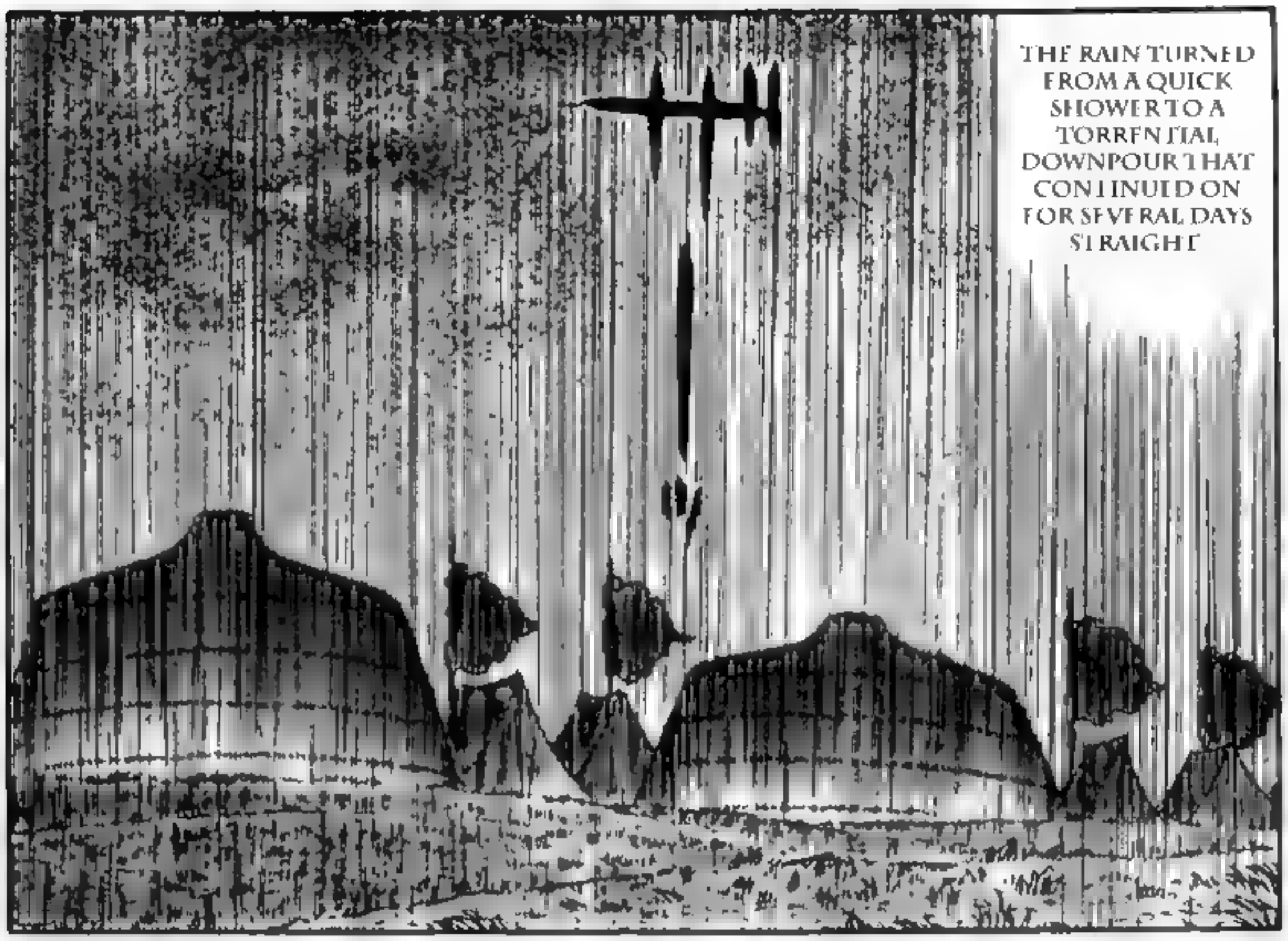
OUR VICTORY IS NOW UP TO HOW LONG THE WESTERN XIA KING CAN ENDURE THIS.

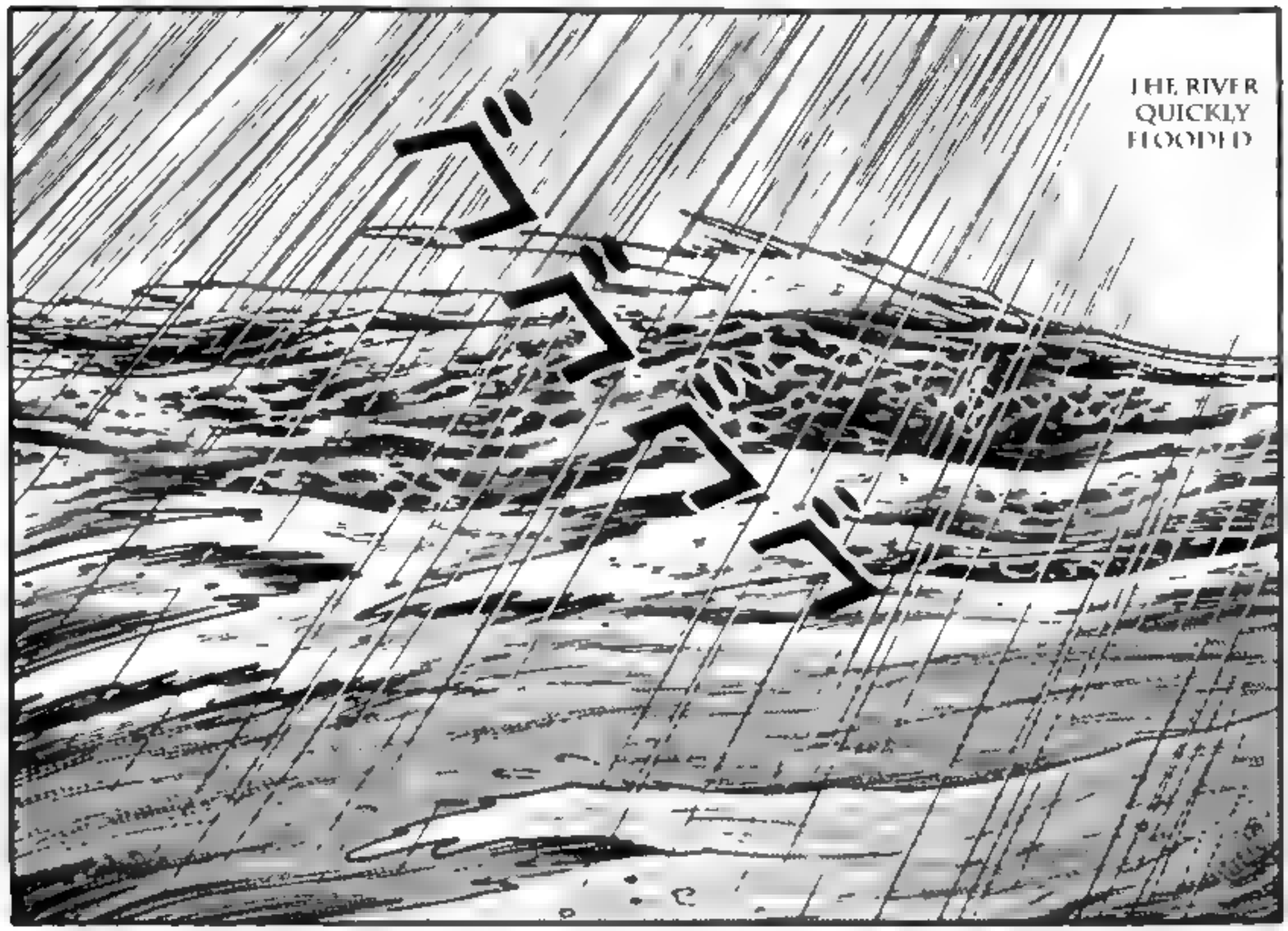

YES.
HAHA, LET US CALMLY WAIT FOR THEIR MESSENGER TO ARRIVE AND OFFER THEIR SURRENDER THEN.

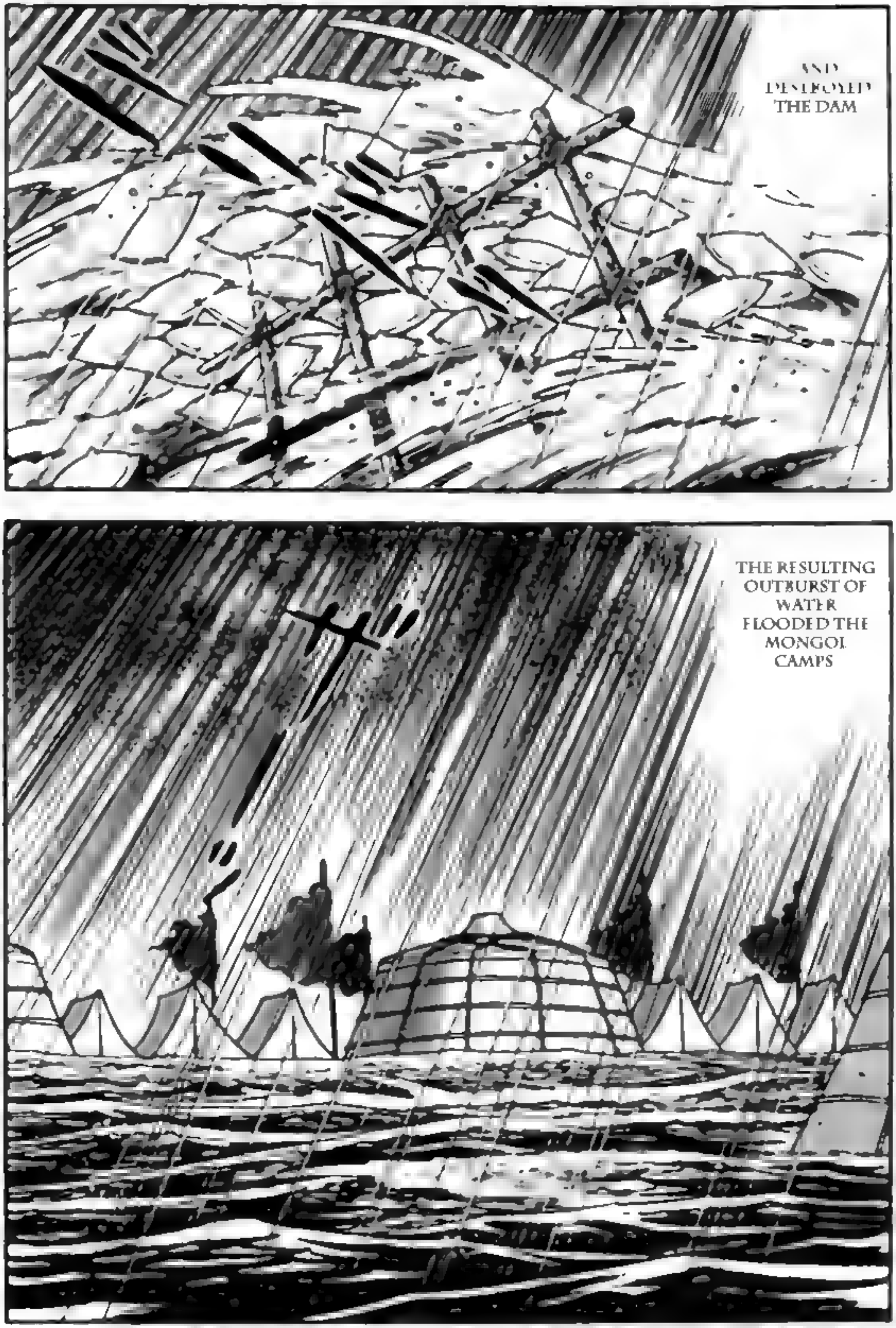



WE'RE PROBABLY IN FOR SOME RAIN.
LOOK, WE'VE GOT SOME PRETTY DARK CLOUDS MOVING IN.

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S STARTING TO POUR.


THE RAIN TURNED FROM A QUICK SHOWER TO A TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR THAT CONTINUED ON FOR SEVERAL DAYS STRAIGHT


THE RIVER QUICKLY FLOODED


AND
DESTROYED
THE DAM
THE RESULTING
OUTBURST OF
WATER
FLOODED THE
MONGOL
CAMPS

BREAK OFF THE ENCIRCLEMENT OF ZHONGXING! WE MUST RETREAT TO HIGHER GROUNDS!
EVEN THE MONGOL ARMY WAS POWERLESS AGAINST THE SHEER FORCE OF NATURE

THE CITY WAS ABOUT TO GIVE OUT TOO...

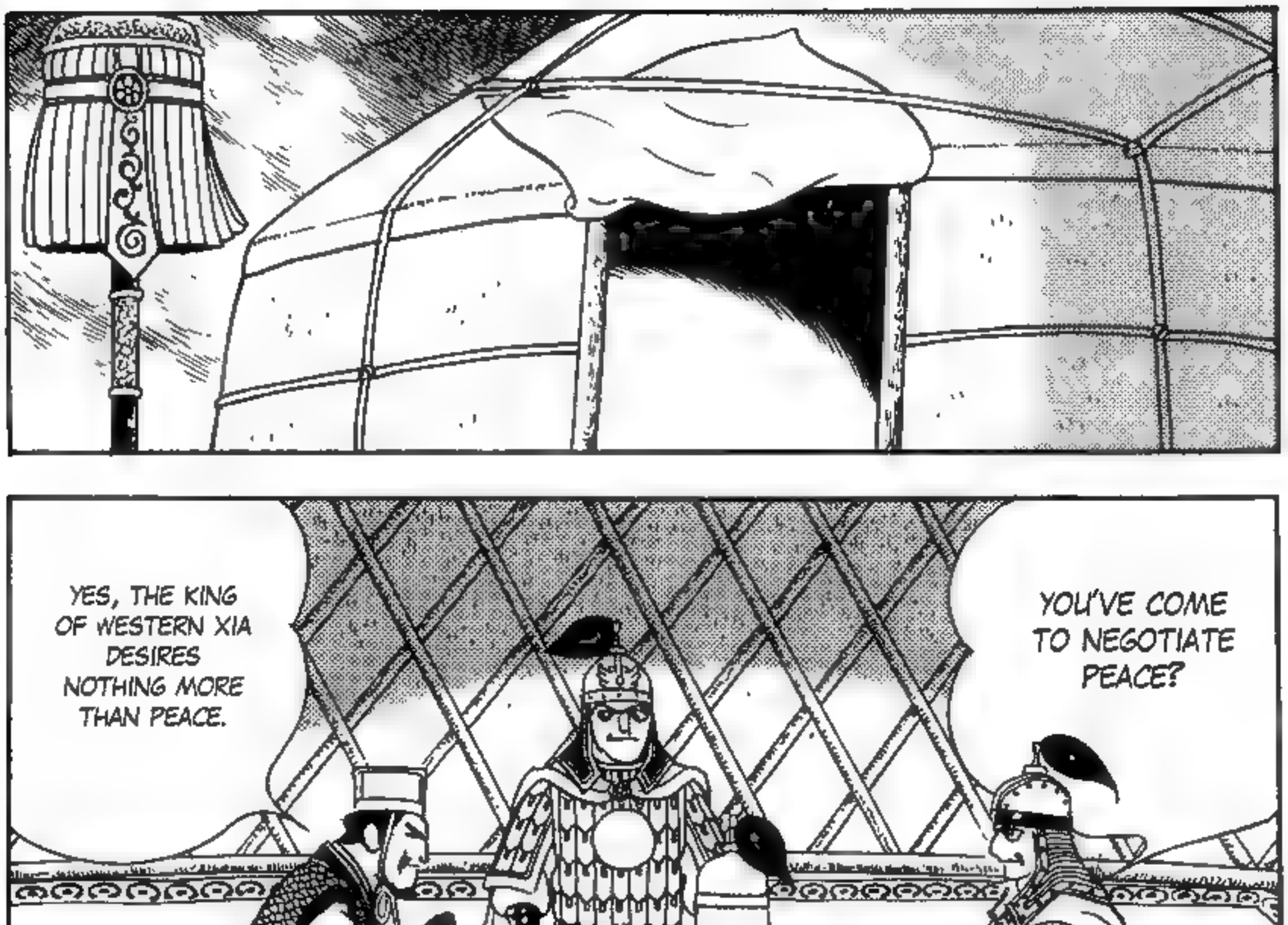
WHAT A RAINSTORM.

HM?

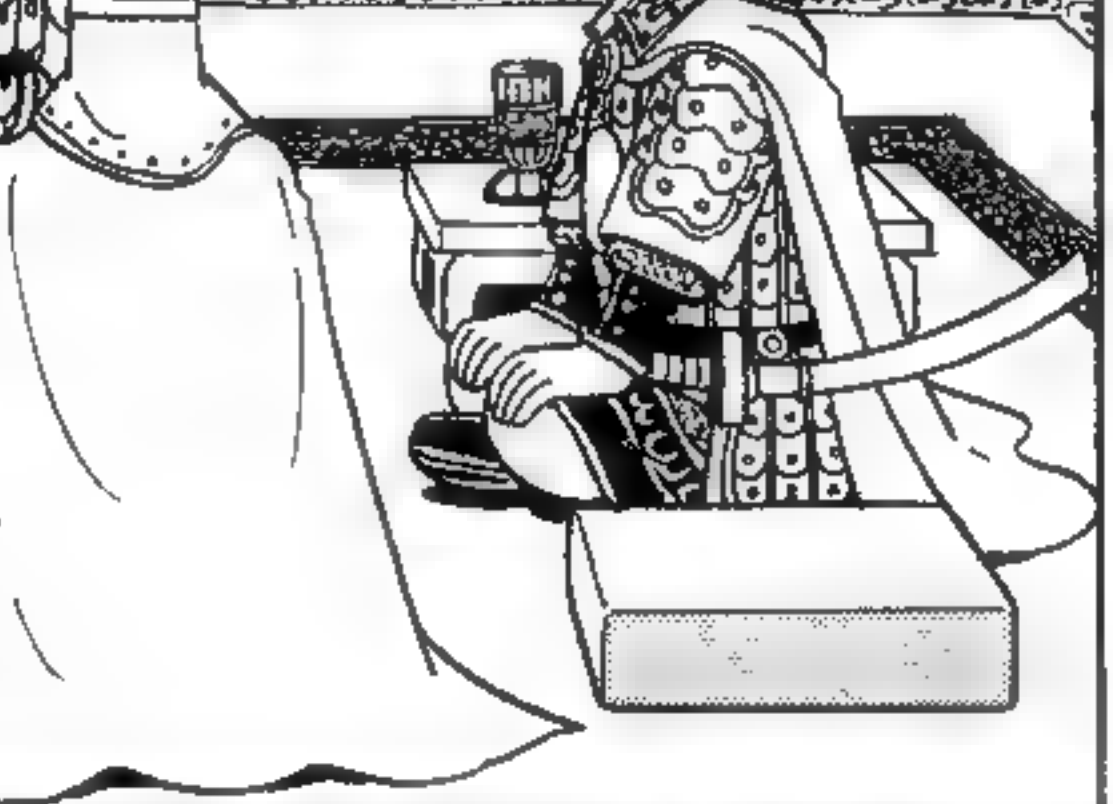
I WONDER WHAT HE CAME TO SAY...

IS THAT A TANGUT MESSENGER?

HE'S ENTERING OUR KHAN'S GER.


YES, THE KING OF WESTERN XIA DESIRES NOTHING MORE THAN PEACE.
YOU'VE COME TO NEGOTIATE PEACE?

HE IS WILLING TO MARRY OFF ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS TO YOU.


UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS...?

YEARLY TRIBUTE WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUR KHANATE, AND SHOULD YOU ATTACK THE JIN, WE WILL GLADLY OFFER OUR TROOPS AS SUPPORT.

AH, EVEN A GIFT FOR MY MEN?

AND YOUR SOLDIERS HERE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A CAMEL OF THEIR OWN.

THANK YOU, CHINGGIS KHAN. I WILL REPORT TO MY KING THAT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED HIS OFFER.

VERY WELL, I WILL BE HAPPY TO MAINTAIN PEACE AS LONG AS THOSE PROMISES ARE KEPT.

THOSE WERE MUCH BETTER CONDITIONS THAN I HAD EXPECTED, CONSIDERING OUR SIEGE HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

WAS THAT THE ONLY REASON?

THEY LIKELY WANTED AN END TO THIS WAR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, LEST THEIR TRADE WITH THE FAR WEST BE DISRUPTED AND WEAKEN THEIR STATE.

HM!?

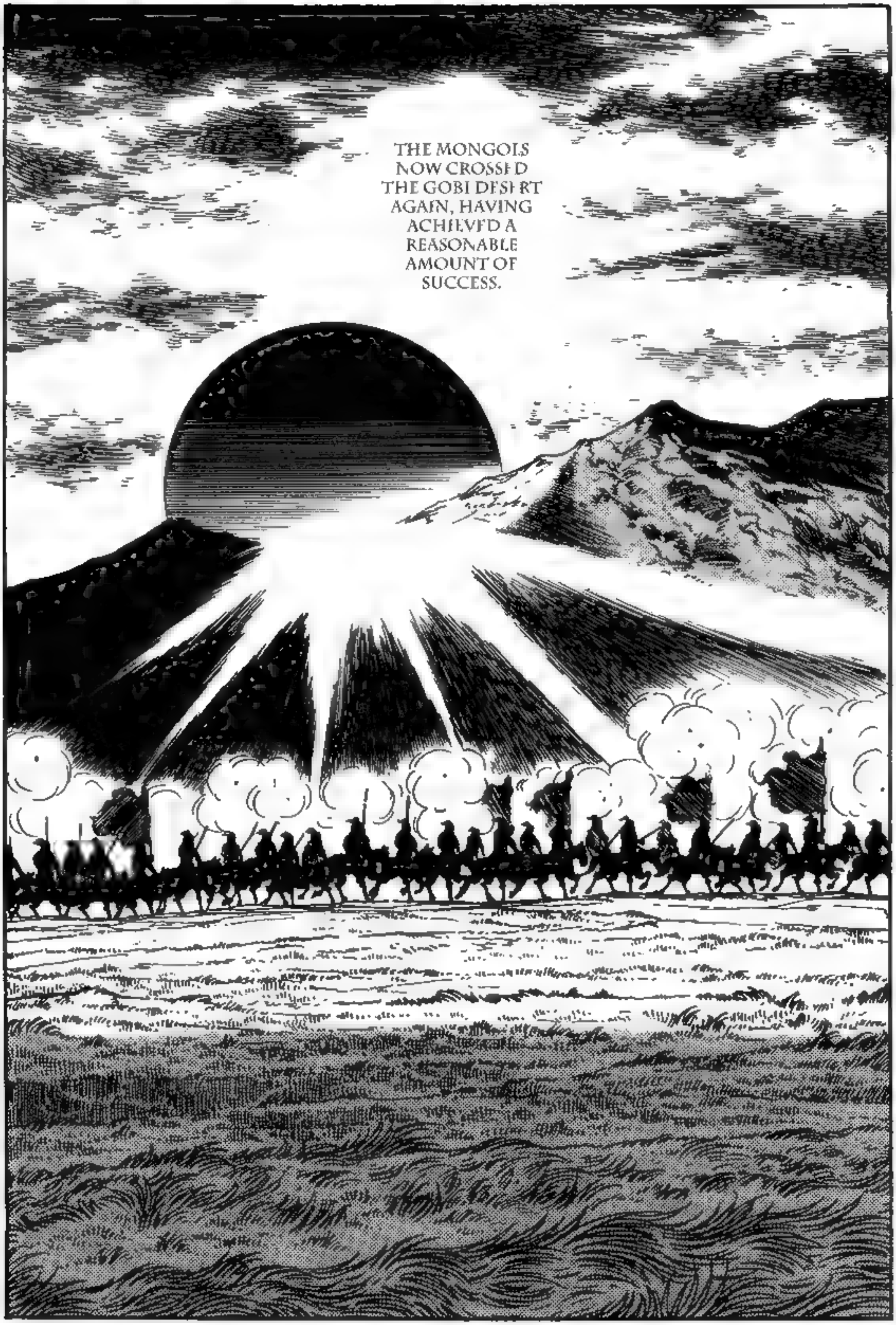
THIS IS JUST A RUMOUR, BUT I DID HEAR THAT WESTERN XIA SENT REQUESTS FOR REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE JIN.

AH YES, THAT MAKES SENSE.

AS I'VE HEARD NO RUMOURS OF A JIN RESPONSE, I ASSUME THE WESTERN XIA KING HAS GIVEN UP HOPE AND JUDGED IT WOULD BE WISER TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE BETWEEN US.

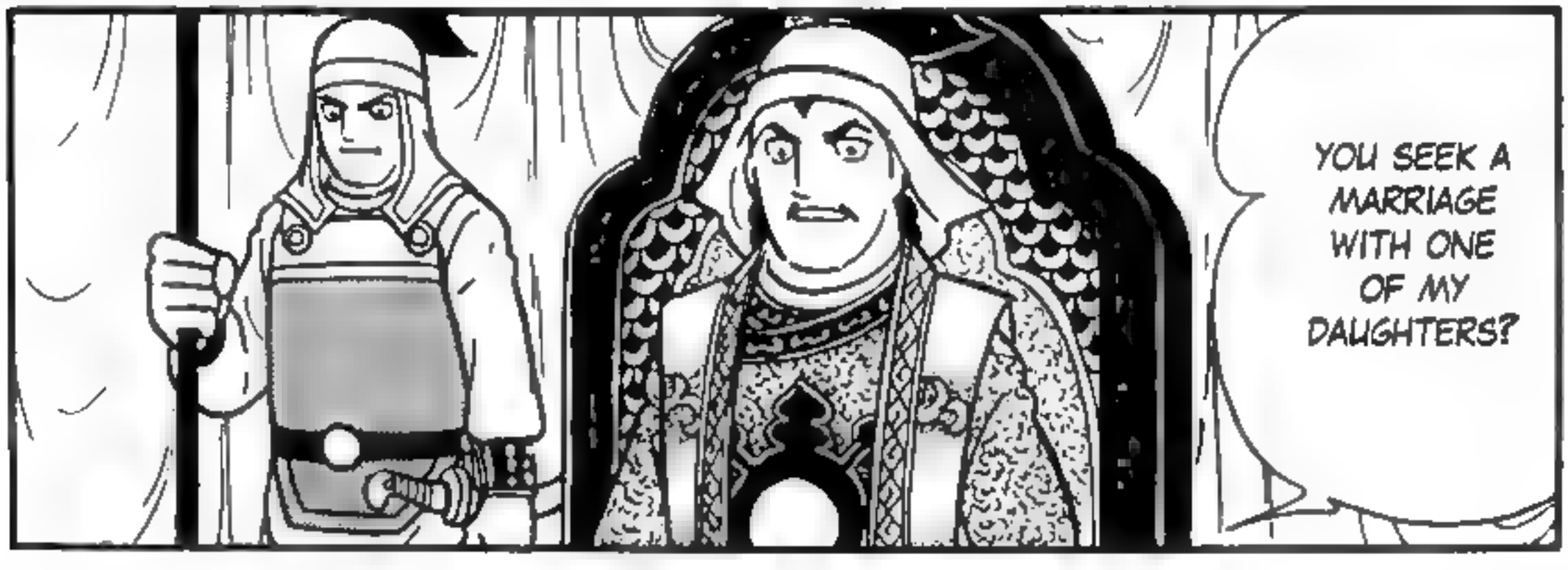
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, A ROYAL TANGUT PRINCESS,

AND AN ENORMOUS HERD OF CAMELS WERE PRESENTED AT THE MONGOL CAMPS


THE MONGOLS
NOW CROSSED
THE GOBI DESERT
AGAIN, HAVING
ACHIEVED A
REASONABLE
AMOUNT OF
SUCCESS.

Jin Campaign

THE SUCCESSFUL WESTERN XIA CAMPAIGN BROUGHT CHINGGIS KHAN AND HIS MONGOLS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AMONG WESTERN XIA S NEIGHBOURS.



*IDIKUT KING, ROYAL TURKISH TITLE MEANING "SACRED MAJESTY"

I AM PREPARED TO SEVER MY TIES TO THE KARA-KHITAI BY BECOMING ONE OF YOUR SONS THROUGH THIS MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.

BUT AS THE UIGHUR IDIKUT, ARE YOU NOT ALSO A VASSAL OF THE KARA-KHITAI? I CAN'T IMAGINE THE KARA-KHITAI GURKHAN QUIETLY ACCEPTING THAT.

I WILL THEN SEND MY YEARLY TRIBUTE TO YOU INSTEAD.

WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEARTS...?

ARE YOU PREPARED TO FOLLOW EVERY LAST ONE OF MY ORDERS IF I GIVE YOU ONE OF MY DAUGHTERS?

MY KHAN, I'VE HEARD THE KARA-KHITAI HAVE BEEN DEMANDING EXCESSIVELY HEAVY TRIBUTE FROM THE UIGHURS. ACCEPTING THIS MARRIAGE PROPOSAL WILL TURN THE UIGHURS INTO A RELIABLE ALLY AND INCREASE OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

HOW CAN A SON REFUSE HIS FATHER'S WISHES?

THAT IS NO PROBLEM.

FINE, BUT AS MY DAUGHTER IS STILL YOUNG, YOU WILL ONLY BE BETROTHED FOR NOW.

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.

VERY WELL, BUT LET ME WARN YOU, I DO NOT TAKE BETRAYALS LIGHTLY. YOU ARE WELL-ADVISED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ME.

THE VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION OF THE UIGHUR IDIKUT WAS FOLLOWED BY ARSLAN, LEADER OF THE KARLUK TURKS,

AND OZAR, THE ALMALIK KING.

NEIGHBOURING STATES ARE BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE OUR POWER.

IT SEEMS THE WESTERN XIA CAMPAIGN YIELDED GREATER BENEFITS THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED.

YES, KHAN.

THAT IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT OUR TRUE OBJECTIVE IS TO STRIKE THE JIN. WE MUST AVENGE THE DEATH OF OUR ANCESTORS AT THEIR HANDS.

I WANT SPIES SENT OUT TO ALL NEIGHBOURING STATES AND GATHER AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE ON HOW TO SIEGE WALLED SETTLEMENTS.

YES...

BUT IF OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST WESTERN XIA TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT IS THE DIFFICULTY OF TAKING WALLED CITIES. UNTIL WE OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO MOUNT ANYTHING MORE SERIOUS THAN BORDER RAIDS ON THE JIN.

I WILL SEE TO IT THAT AGENTS ARE SENT OUT AT ONCE, KHAN.

UNTIL THEN, WE WILL SET ASIDE ANY INVASION OF JIN.

CHINGGIS KHAN THEN FOCUSED HIS ENERGIES ON EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS NECESSARY FOR A FULL SCALE JIN CAMPAIGN

IN TIME, HIS MEN LEARNED HOW TO CONSTRUCT ADVANCED CATAPULTS AND OTHER SIEGE WEAPONS.

SOLDIERS WERE TRAINED TO USE MOBILE WOODEN BARRIERS TO APPROACH WALLS.

AND CAVALRY WERE DRILLED IN THE ART OF CHARGING WITH LONG LANCES.

YES, KHAN.

A MESSENGER FROM THE JIN?

YES.

LET HIM IN.

CHINGGIS KHAN HAS PERMITTED YOU TO ENTER.

A NEW EMPEROR?

I HAVE COME ON BEHALF OF THE NEW JIN EMPEROR.

OH?

PRINCE SHAO OF WEI, YUNJI, HAS RECENTLY ASCENDED TO THE THRONE AS THE 7TH EMPEROR OF JIN.

TO SEE THAT THE MONGOL KHAN PAYS HIS RESPECT BY KOWTOWING,

AND FOR WHAT REASON DOES HE SEND A MESSENGER?

AND TO NEGOTIATE THE AMOUNT AND KIND OF TRIBUTE TO BE SENT YEARLY.

*COMMANDER OF THE CHA'UT, FRONTIER JIN-TERRITORY

DID YOU NOT ACCEPT THE POST OF CHA'UT-KURI FROM THE PREVIOUS JIN EMPEROR?

YOUR EMPEROR IS UNDER SOME SEVERE MIS-UNDERSTANDING, FOR I AM NO VASSAL OF JIN.

ONE OF YOUR GENERALS WILLINGLY GAVE ME THAT TITLE WHEN I HELPED HIM VANQUISH THE TARTARS BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, I NEVER CONSENTED TO BECOME A JIN VASSAL.

IF YOUR NEW EMPEROR IS INDEED UNDER THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE HIS VASSALS, THEN I ADVISE YOU TO HEAD BACK IMMEDIATELY AND TELL HIM THAT THE MONGOLS ARE ON EQUAL STANDING WITH THE JIN.

GOOD, I WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH DISRESPECT.

Y-YES, SIR... I WILL PASS ON YOUR WORDS TO HIS HIGHNESS.

THE JIN MESSENGERS HURRIED BACK HOME IN SHOCK.

"SOME KHITAN REMNANTS RE-ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN CENTRAL ASIA AS THE "WESTERN LIAO" (KARA-KHITAI)

THE JIN EMPIRE WAS FOUNDED IN THE EARLY 12TH CENTURY BY THE JURCHENS OF MANCHURIA. THEIR SUCCESSFUL EXPANSION SAW THEMSELVES BECOME THE NEW MASTERS OF NORTHERN CHINA BY DISPLACING THE LIAO EMPIRE OF THE KHITANS.

WHAT!? THE MONGOL KHAN DECLARED HIMSELF AS NO VASSAL!?

YES...

WHAT!

HE ALSO SAID... THAT THE MONGOLS ARE ON EQUAL STANDING WITH JIN...

THOSE FILTHY, POOR NOMADS DRESSED IN RAGS DARE TO SEE US AS THEIR EQUALS!? WE, WHO ARE IMMEASURABLY RICHER, STRONGER, AND MORE CIVILIZED THAN THEM!?

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I DEMAND AN ATTACK ON THESE BARBARIANS AT ONCE TO PUT THEM IN THEIR PROPER PLACE!

GENERALS ACROSS THE REALM WERE NOTIFIED AT ONCE.

AND THEY BEGAN TO ASSEMBLE AT DATONG, THE WESTERN CAPITAL

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.

THE JIN ARE ASSEMBLING AN ARMY IN DATONG?

SHALL I ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS?

SO THE TIME TO STRIKE HAS FINALLY COME...

THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH. WINTER IS SOON APPROACHING, SO IT IS NOT LIKELY THEY WILL INVADE OUR LANDS ANY TIME SOON. I ASSUME THEY WILL MERELY READY THE DEFENSES ALONG THEIR FRONTIER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR AND WAIT FOR SPRING TO ARRIVE.

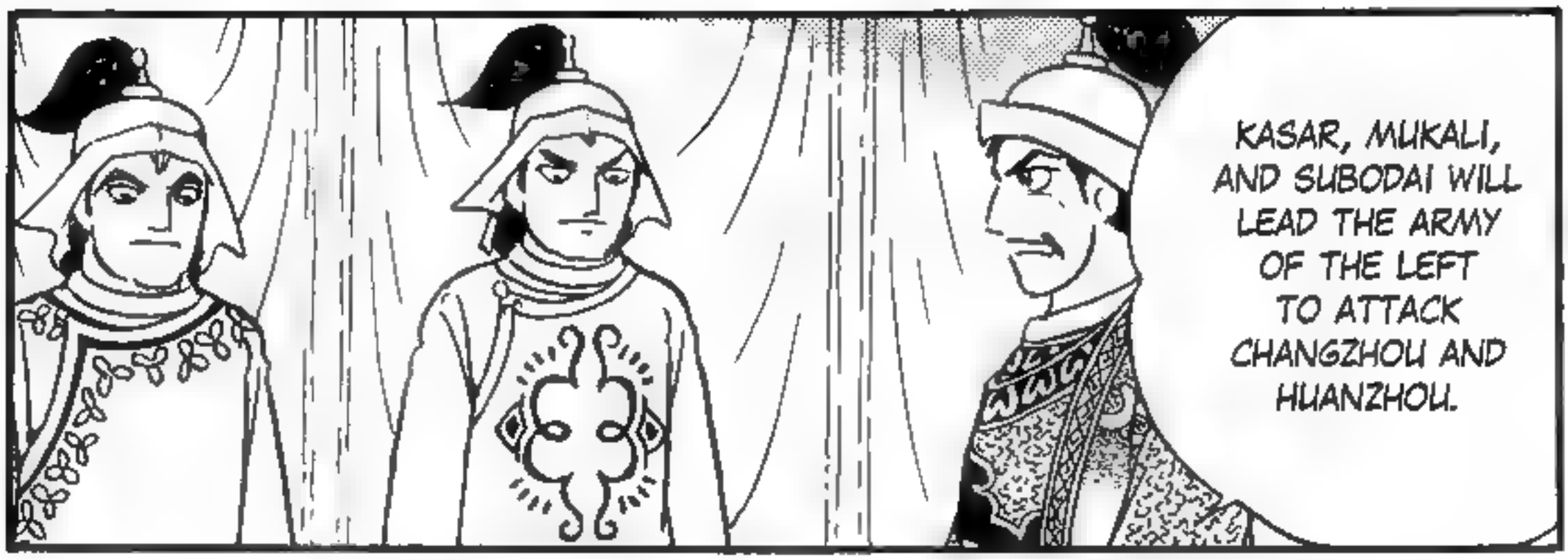
YES, MY KHAN.

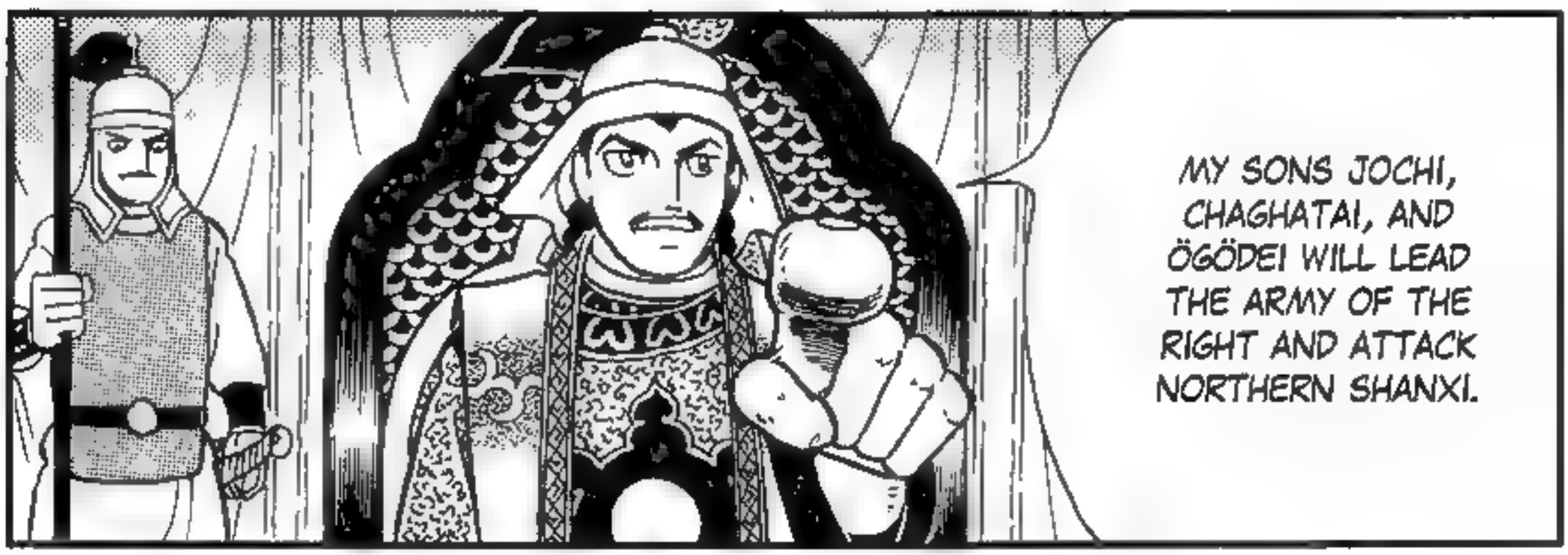
HOWEVER, WE WILL BE THE INVADERS ONCE THE SNOW MELTS NEXT YEAR. ALL GENERALS ARE TO MAKE THEMSELVES READY UNTIL THEN.

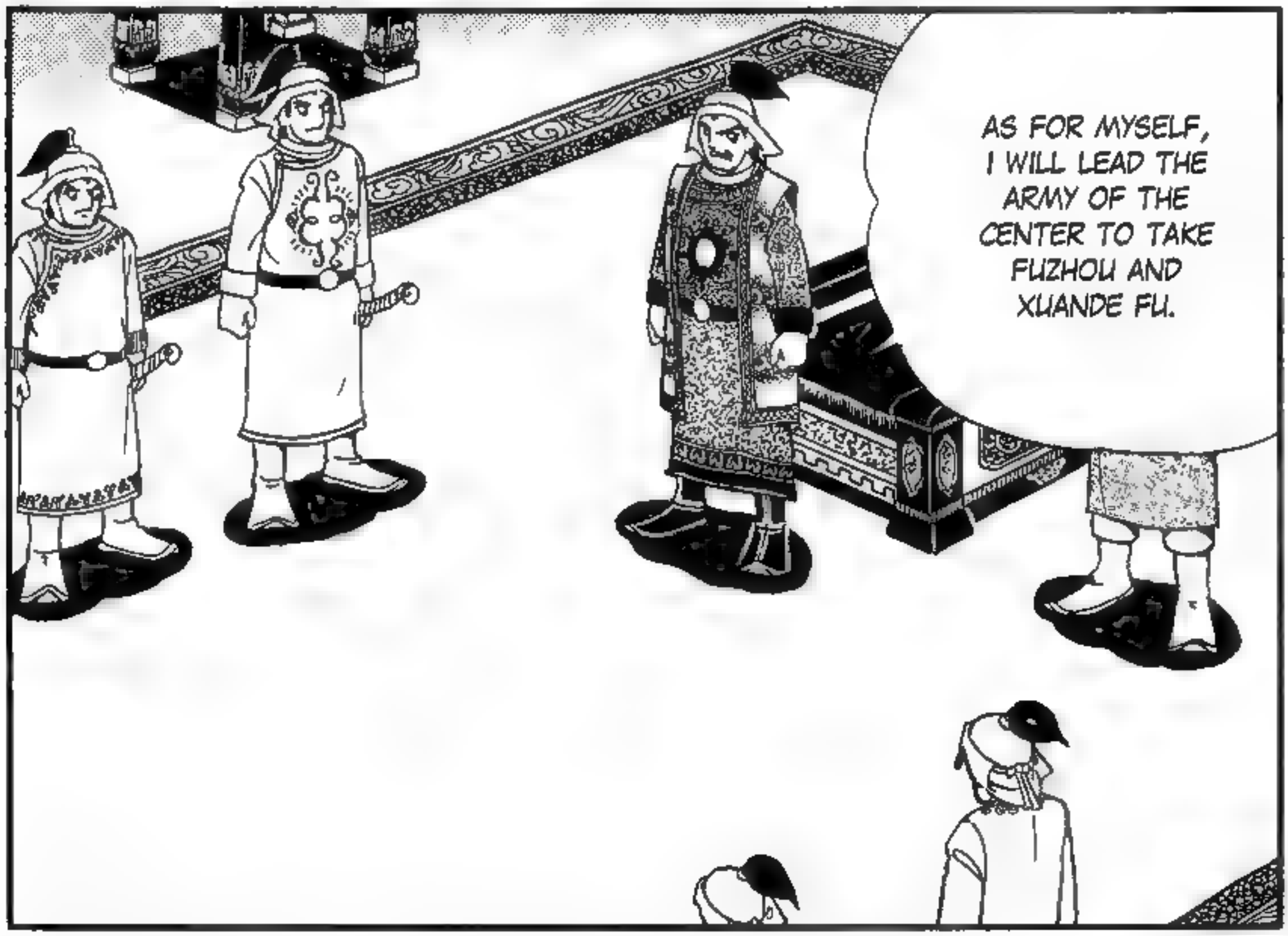
WINTER CAME AND PASSED...

AS THE BARE GROUND BEGAN TO REVEAL ITSELF, THE TRIBAL WARRIORS BEGAN TO GATHER.

THE TIME TO PUNISH OUR HATED FOE HAS COME AT LAST. WE WILL NOT TAKE THE LONG ROUTE THROUGH WESTERN XIA BUT INSTEAD DIRECTLY PENETRATE THEIR NORTHERN FORTIFICATIONS. THEIR WALLS WILL FALL TO THE SIEGE TECHNIQUES WE HAVE LEARNED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS.

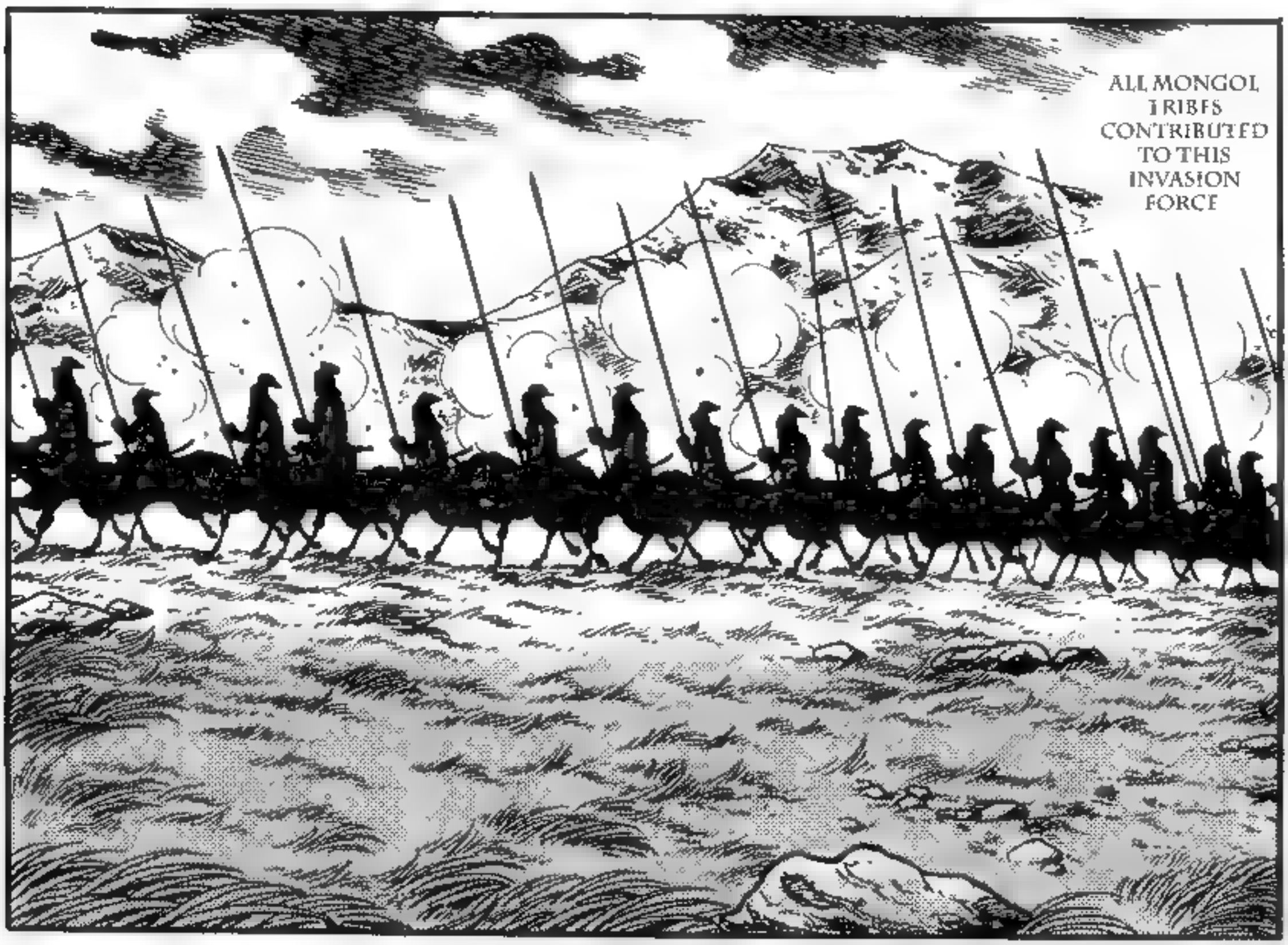


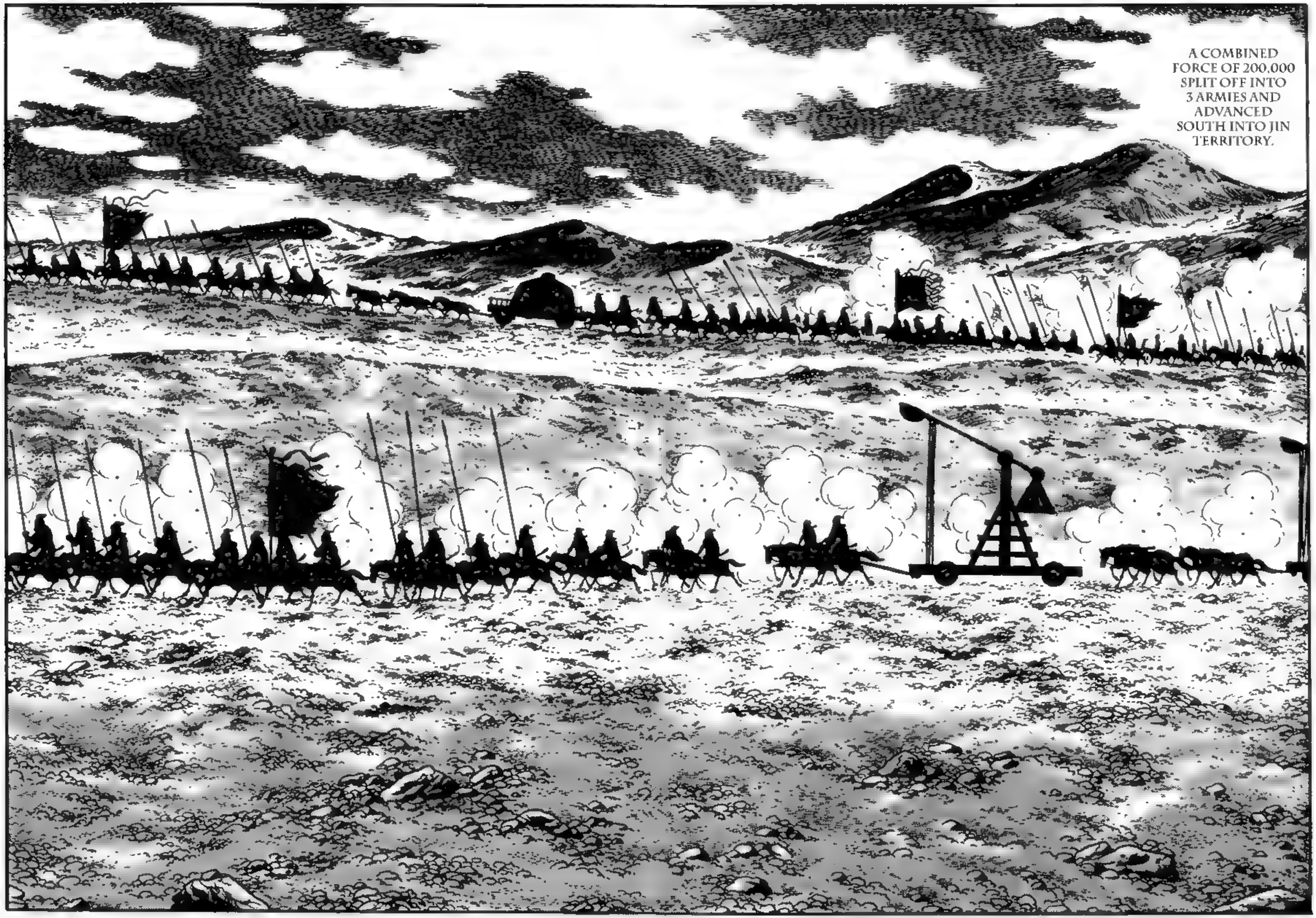


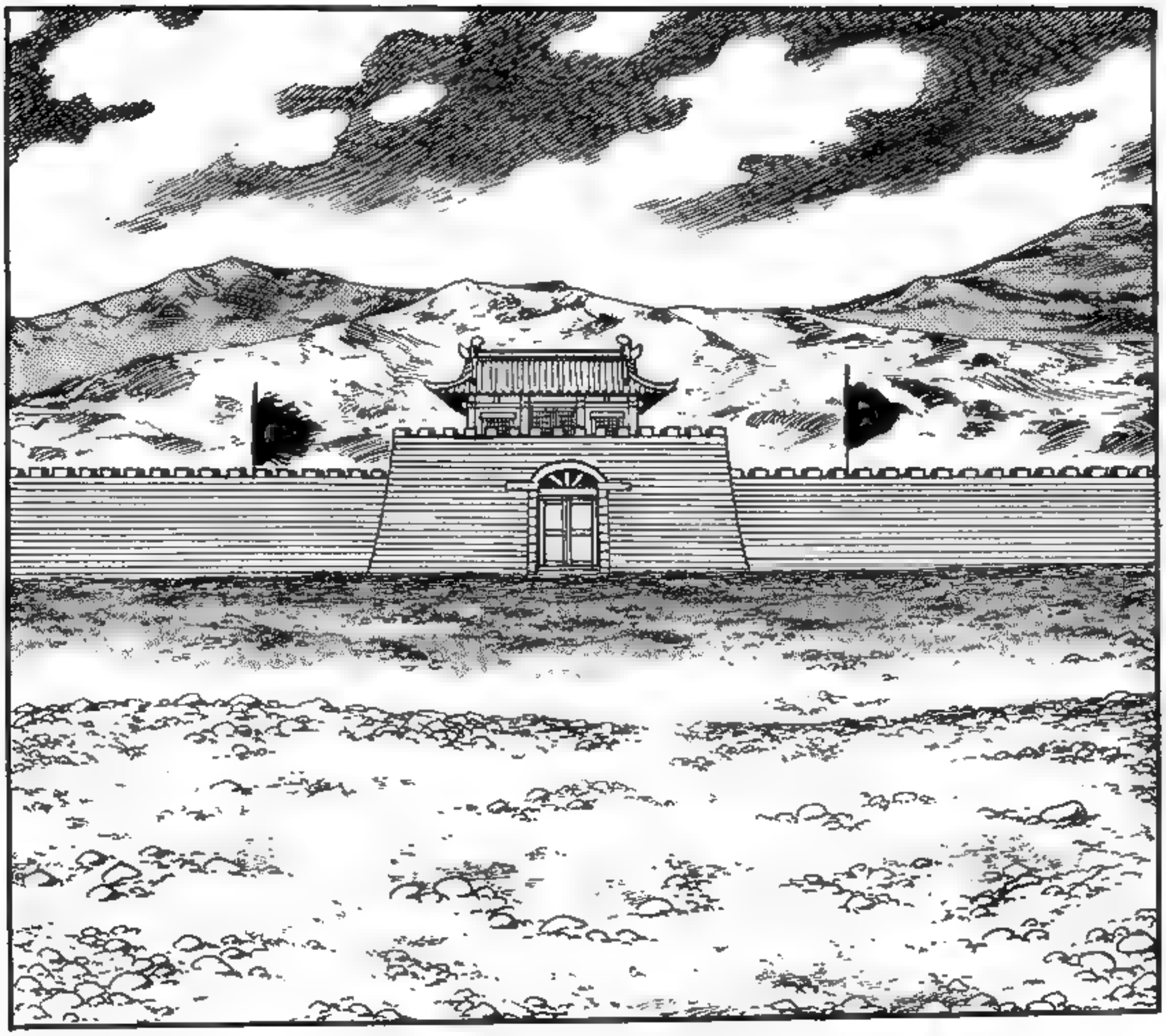


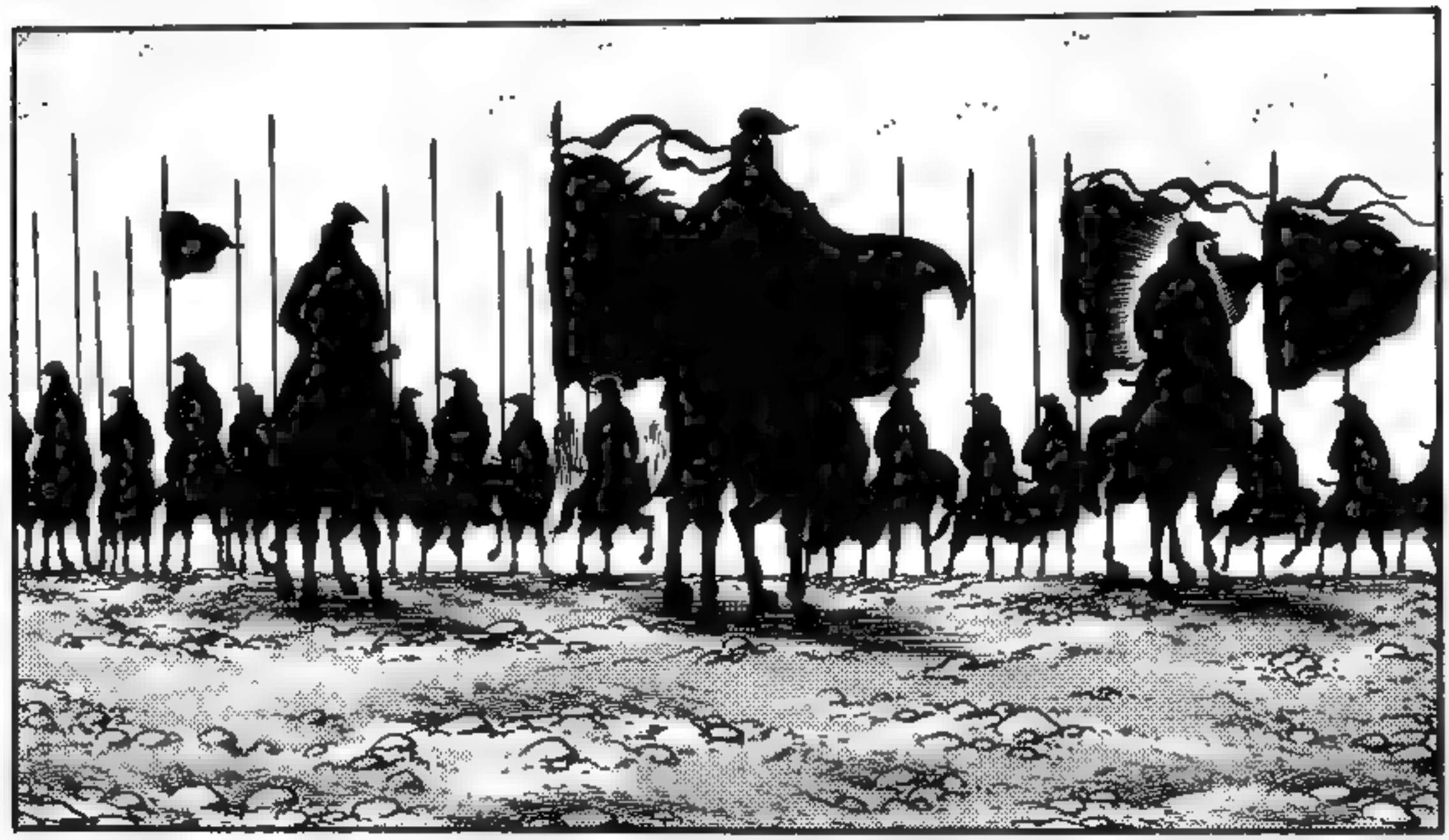
*BOTH CHANGZHOU AND FUZHOU WERE ANCIENT CITIES IN WHAT IS NOW INNER MONGOLIA AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MODERN DAY CHINA. THEY'RE NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE MORE FAMOUS, SAME NAMED CITIES IN SOUTHERN CHINA TODAY

1211 AD.
CHINGGIS
KHAN
LAUNCHED
HIS
CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
THE JIN

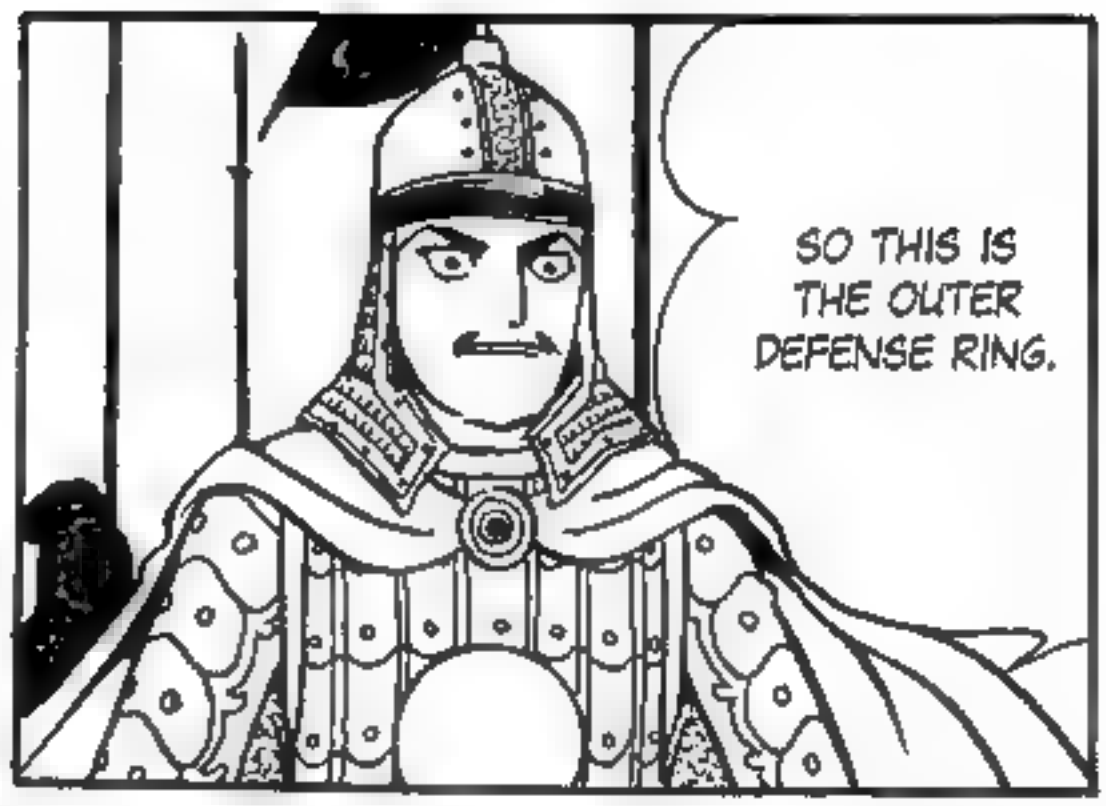

ALL MONGOL
TRIBES
CONTRIBUTED
TO THIS
INVASION
FORCE


A COMBINED FORCE OF 200,000 SPLIT OFF INTO 3 ARMIES AND ADVANCED SOUTH INTO JIN TERRITORY.

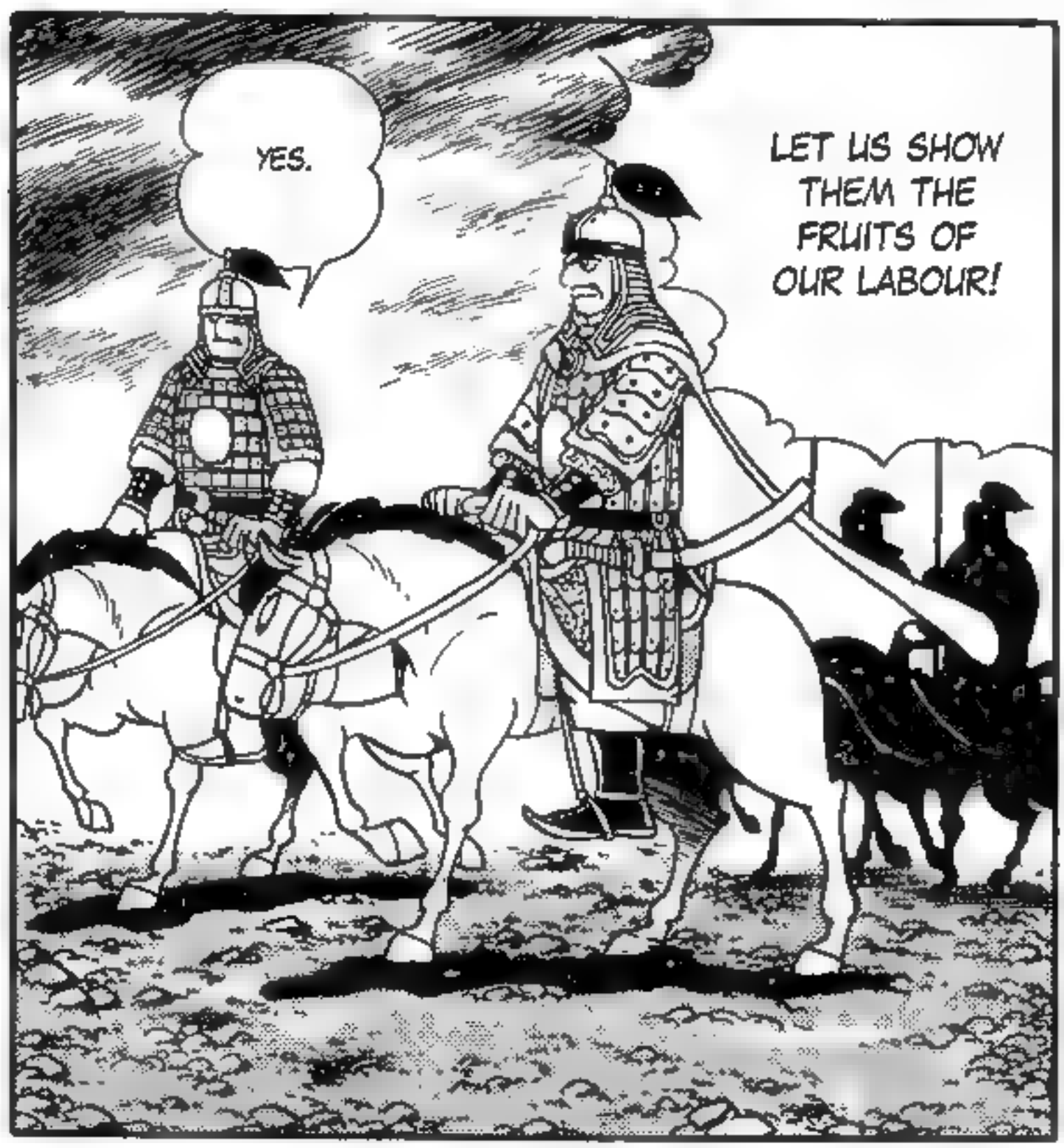


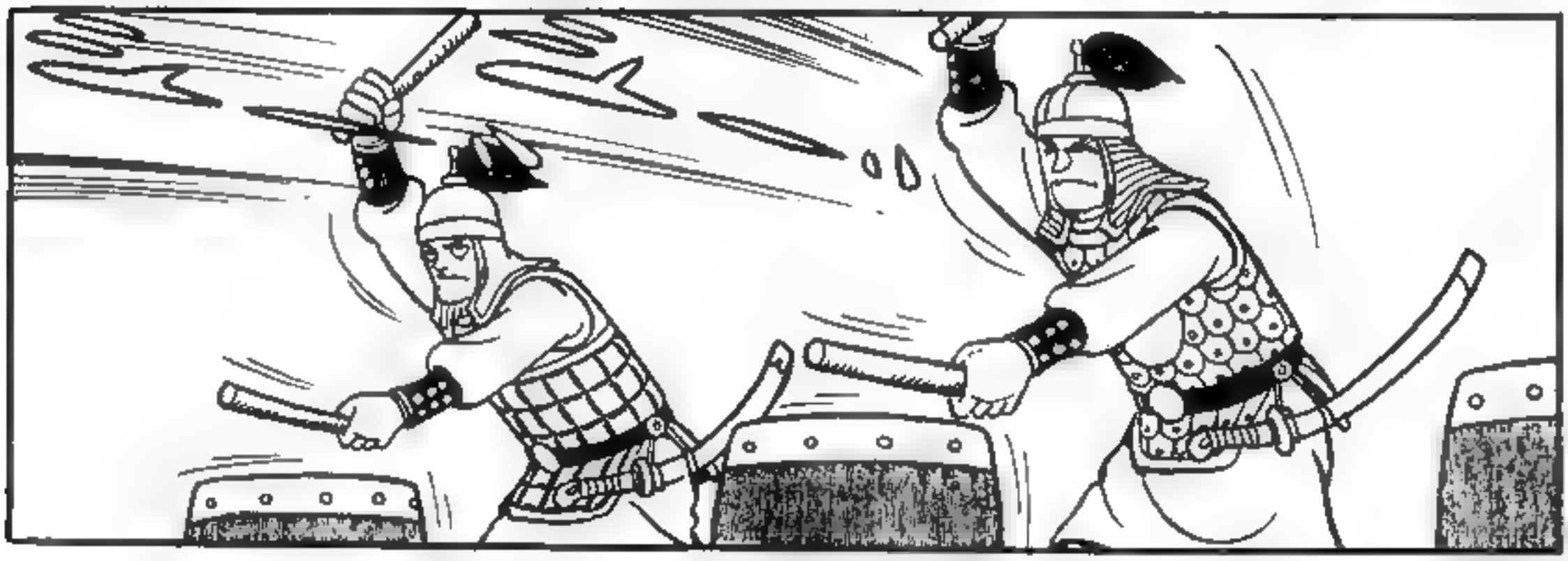


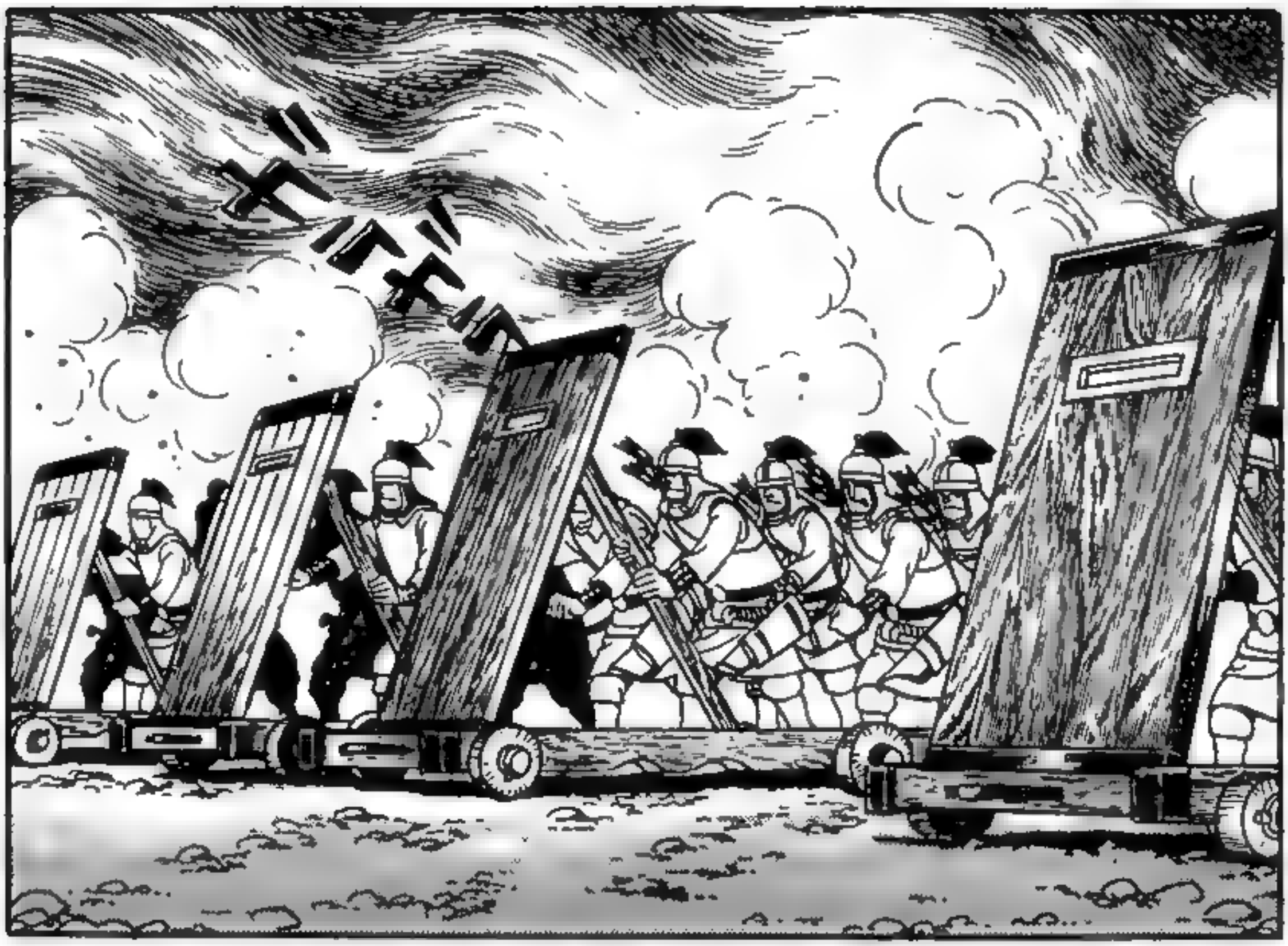
YES, KHAN.

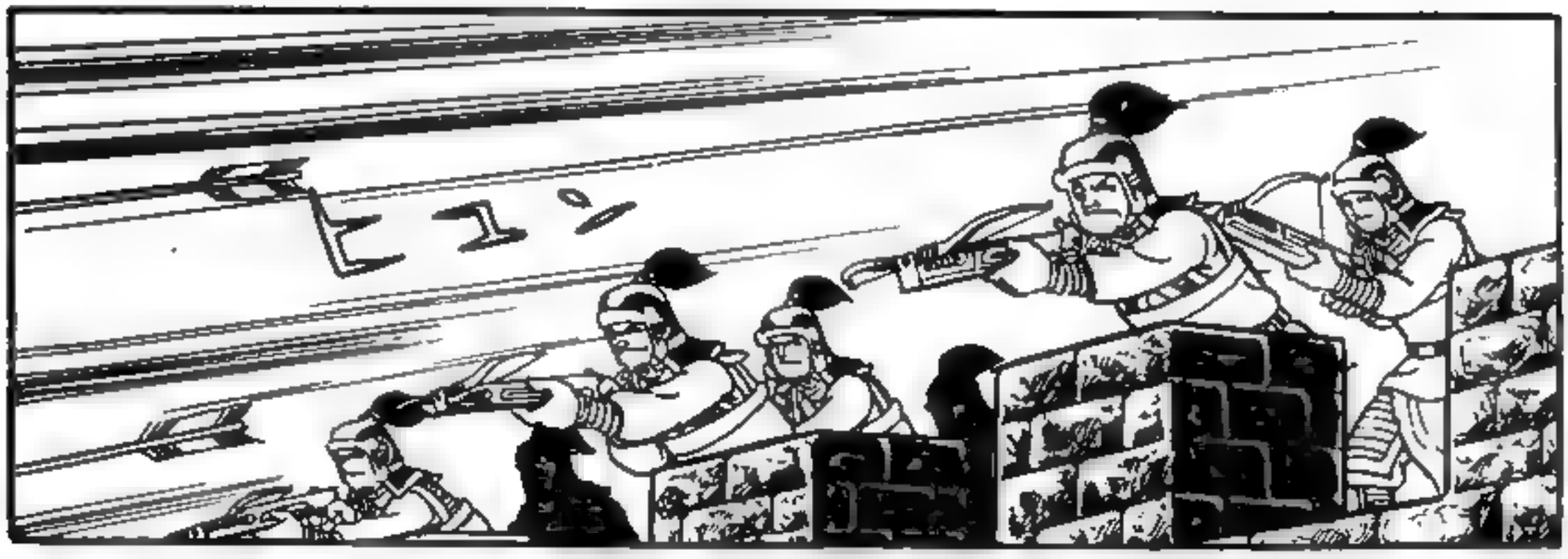

SO THIS IS THE OUTER DEFENSE RING.

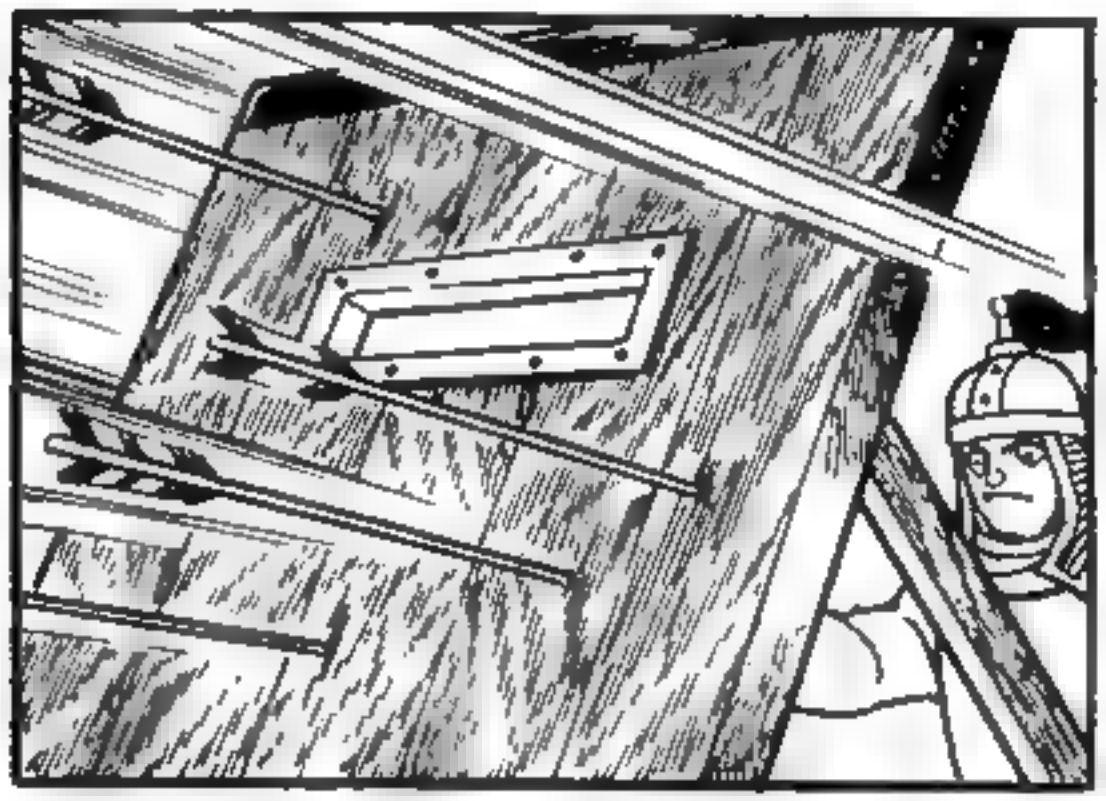
BEGIN THE ATTACK!

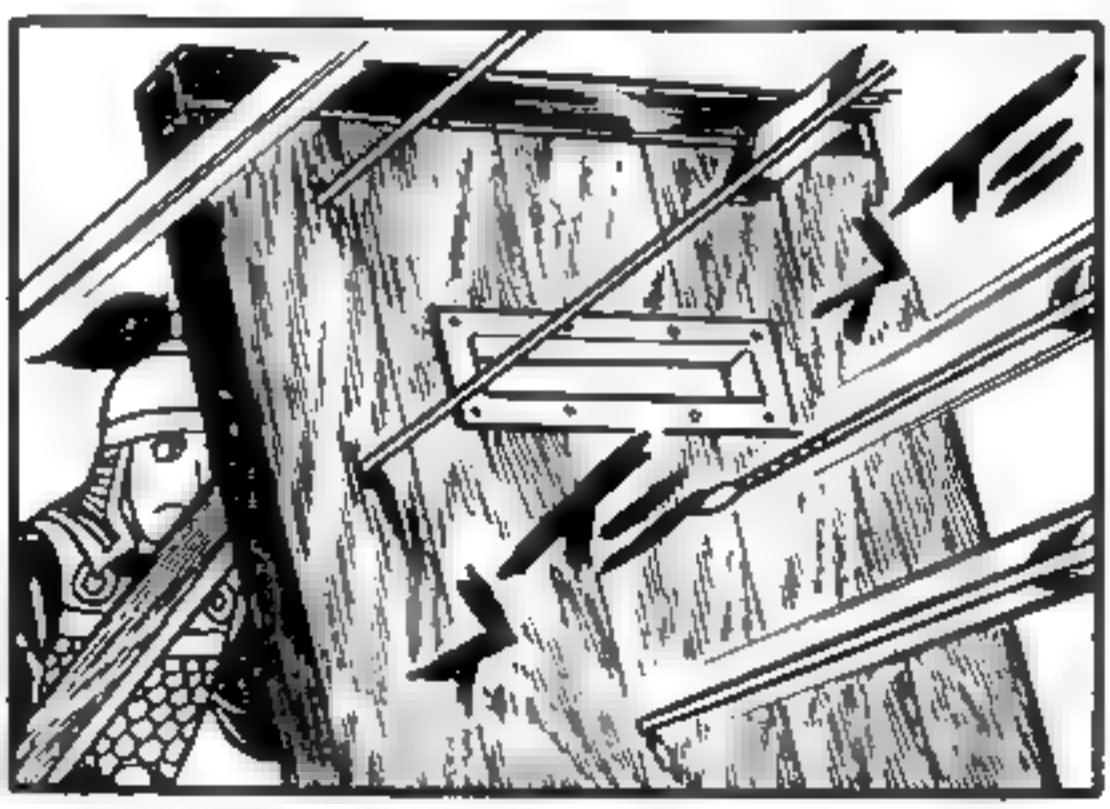

YES.
LET US SHOW THEM THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR!

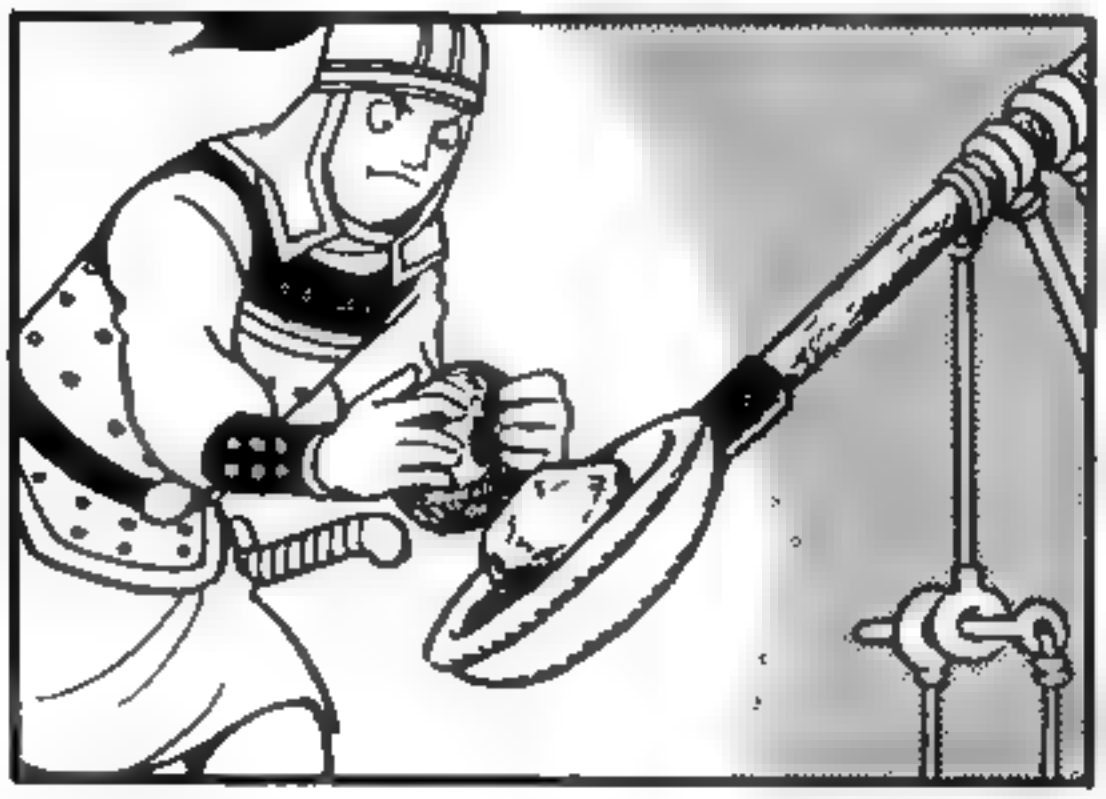


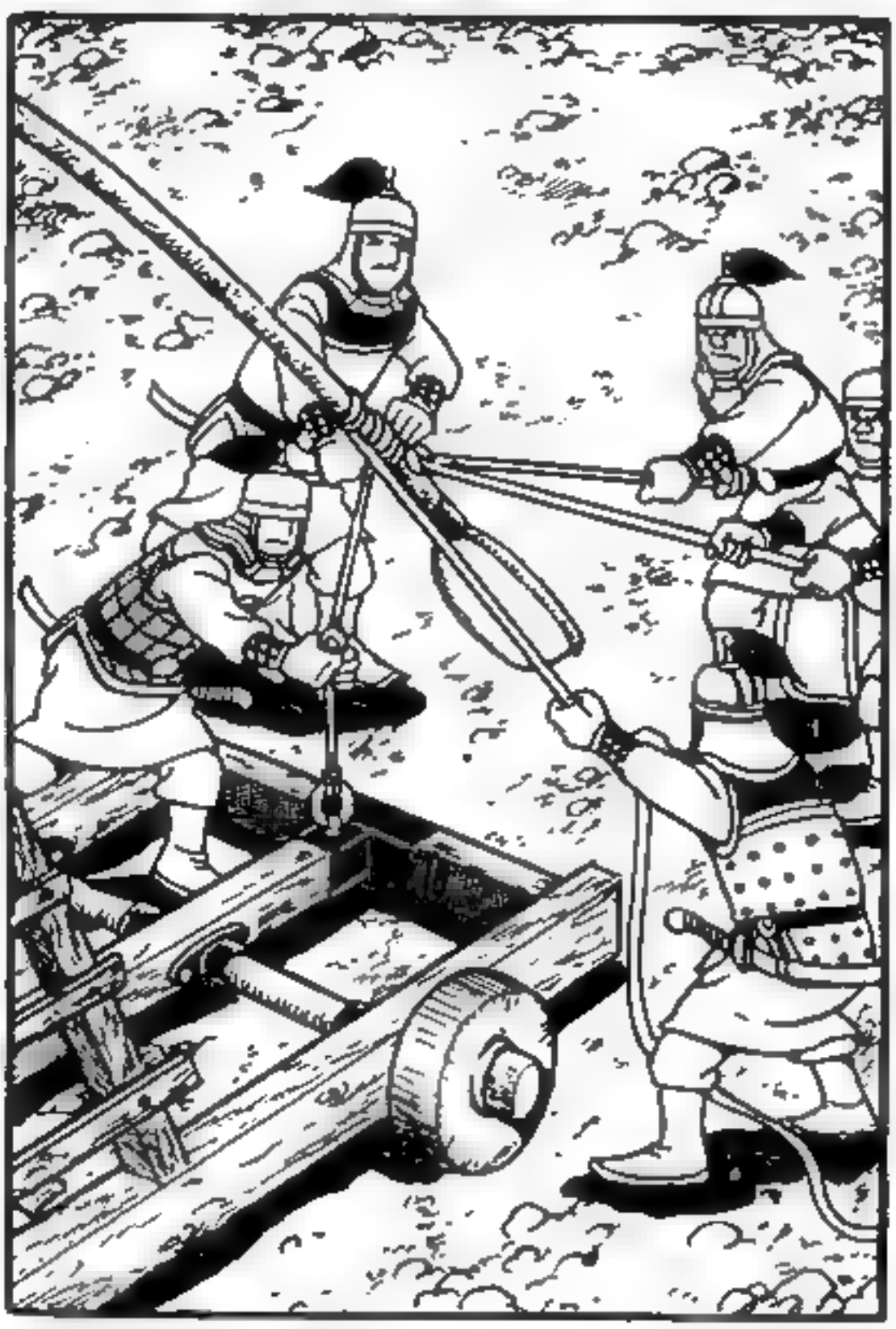


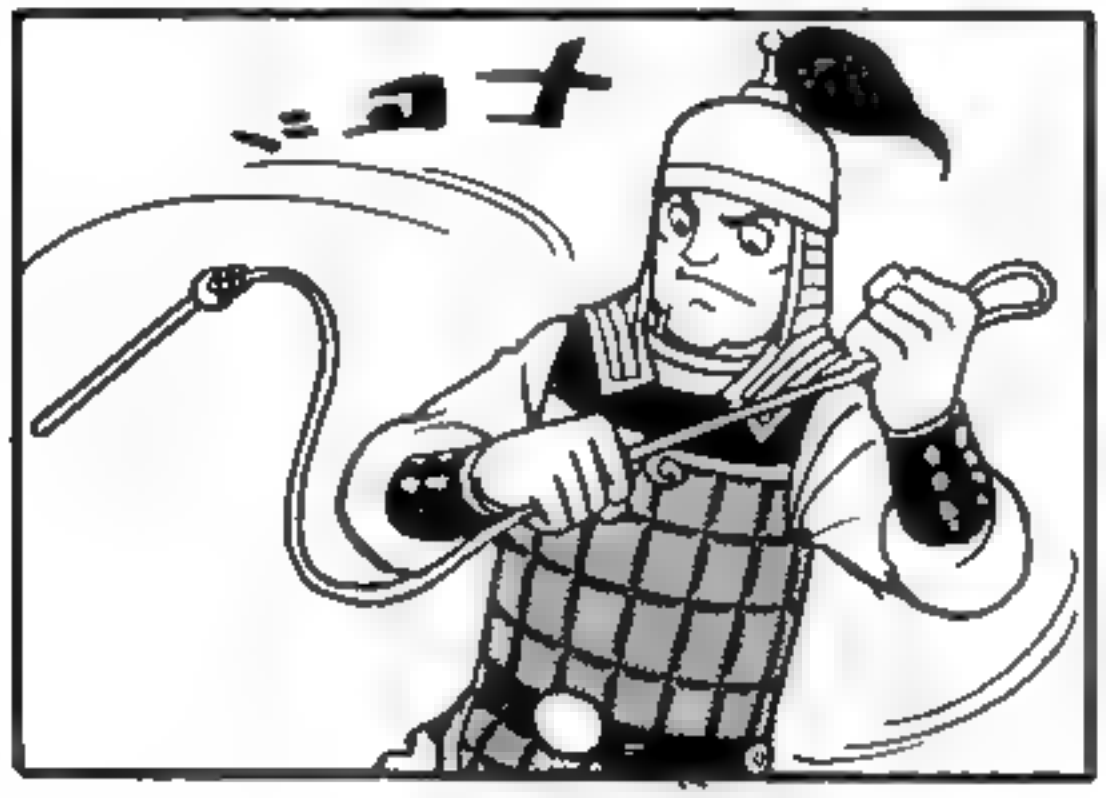


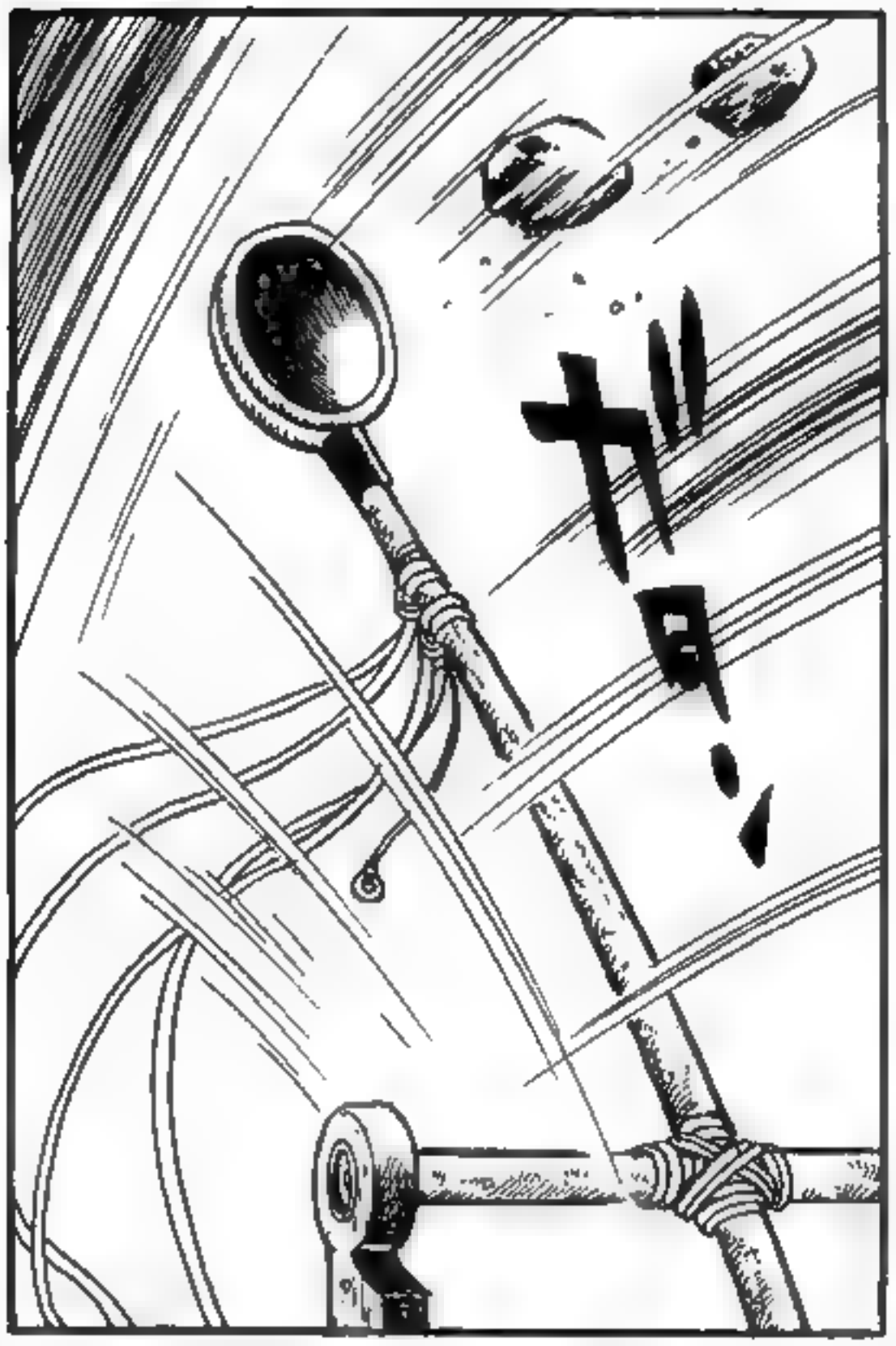


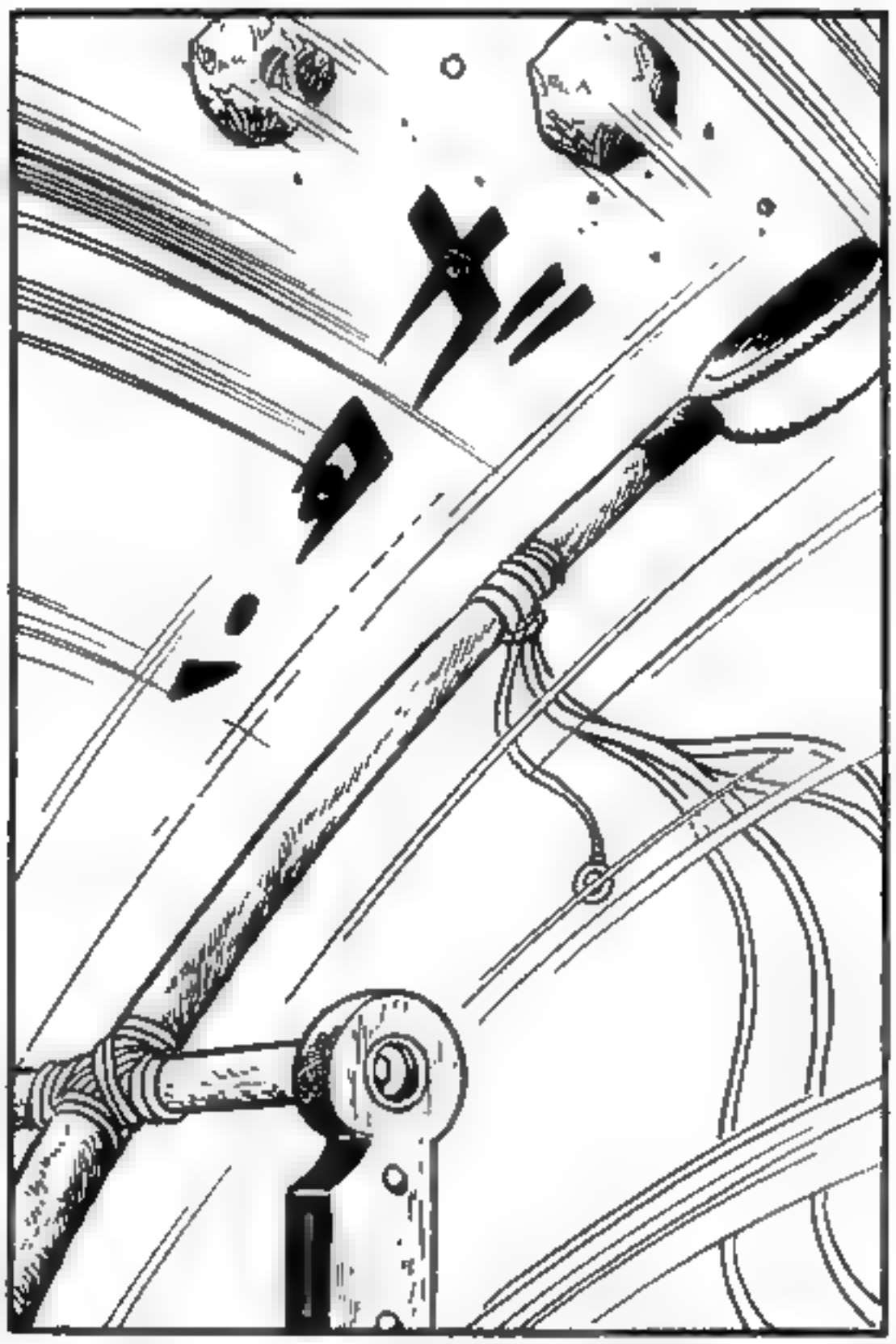


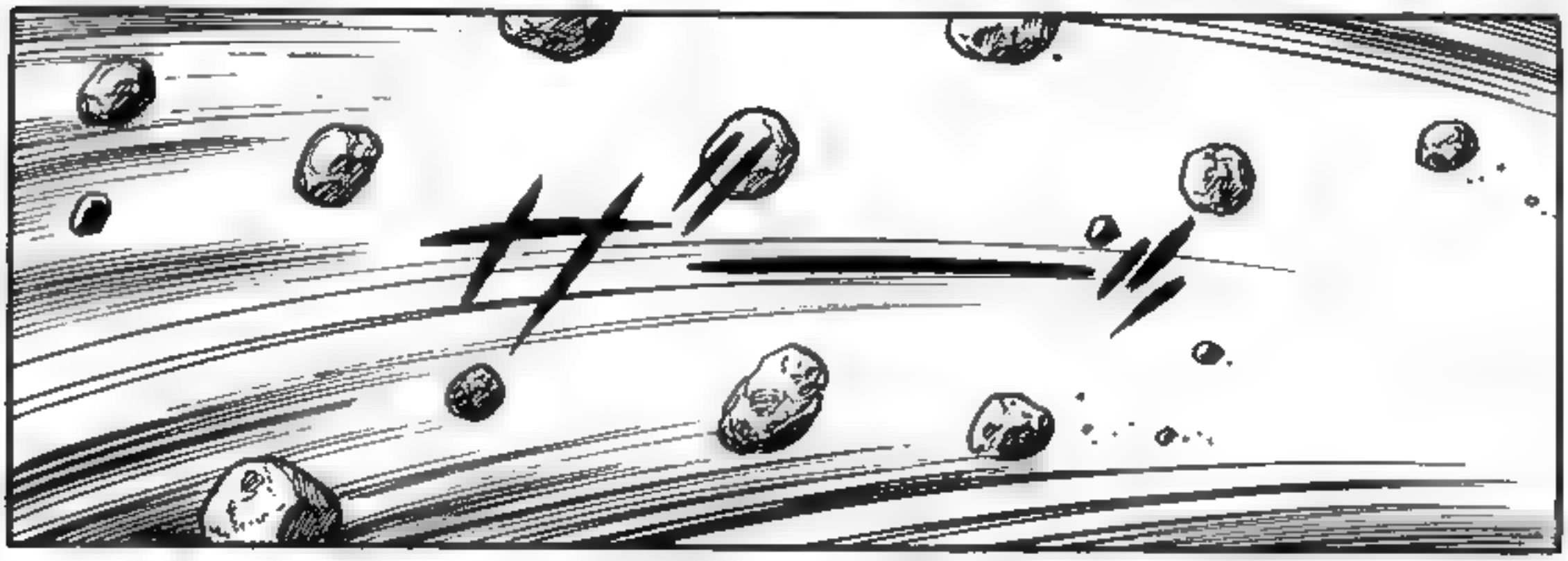


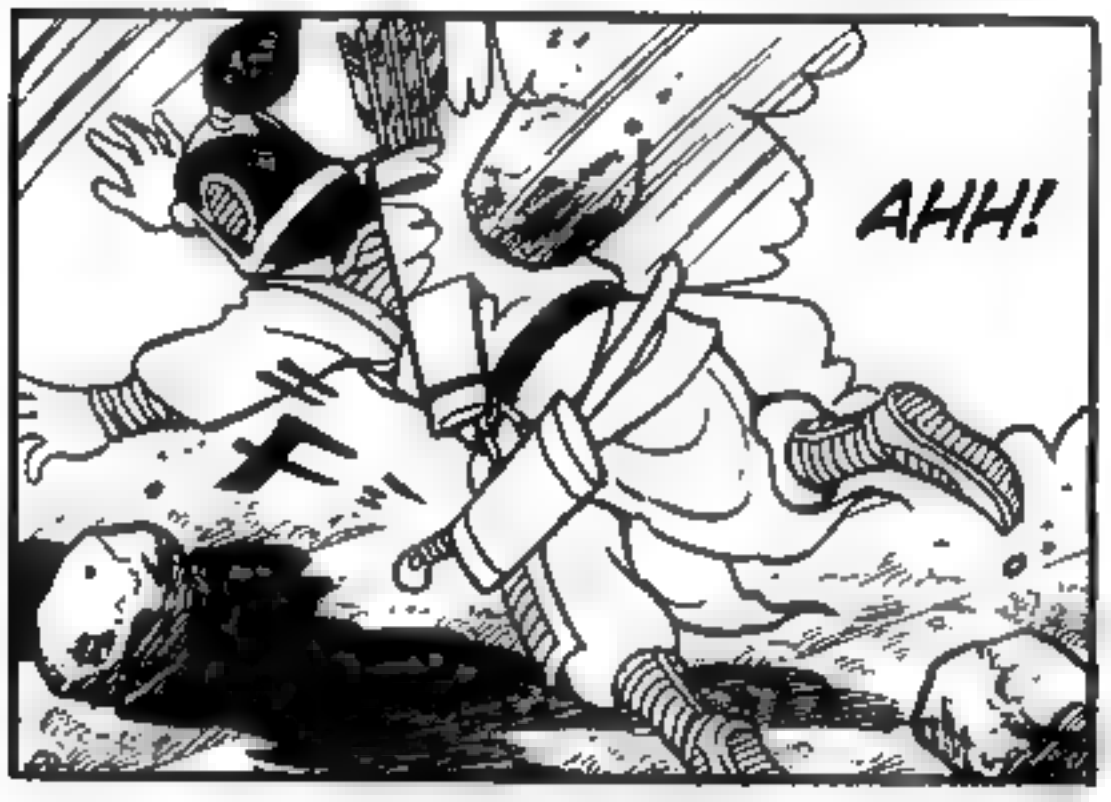




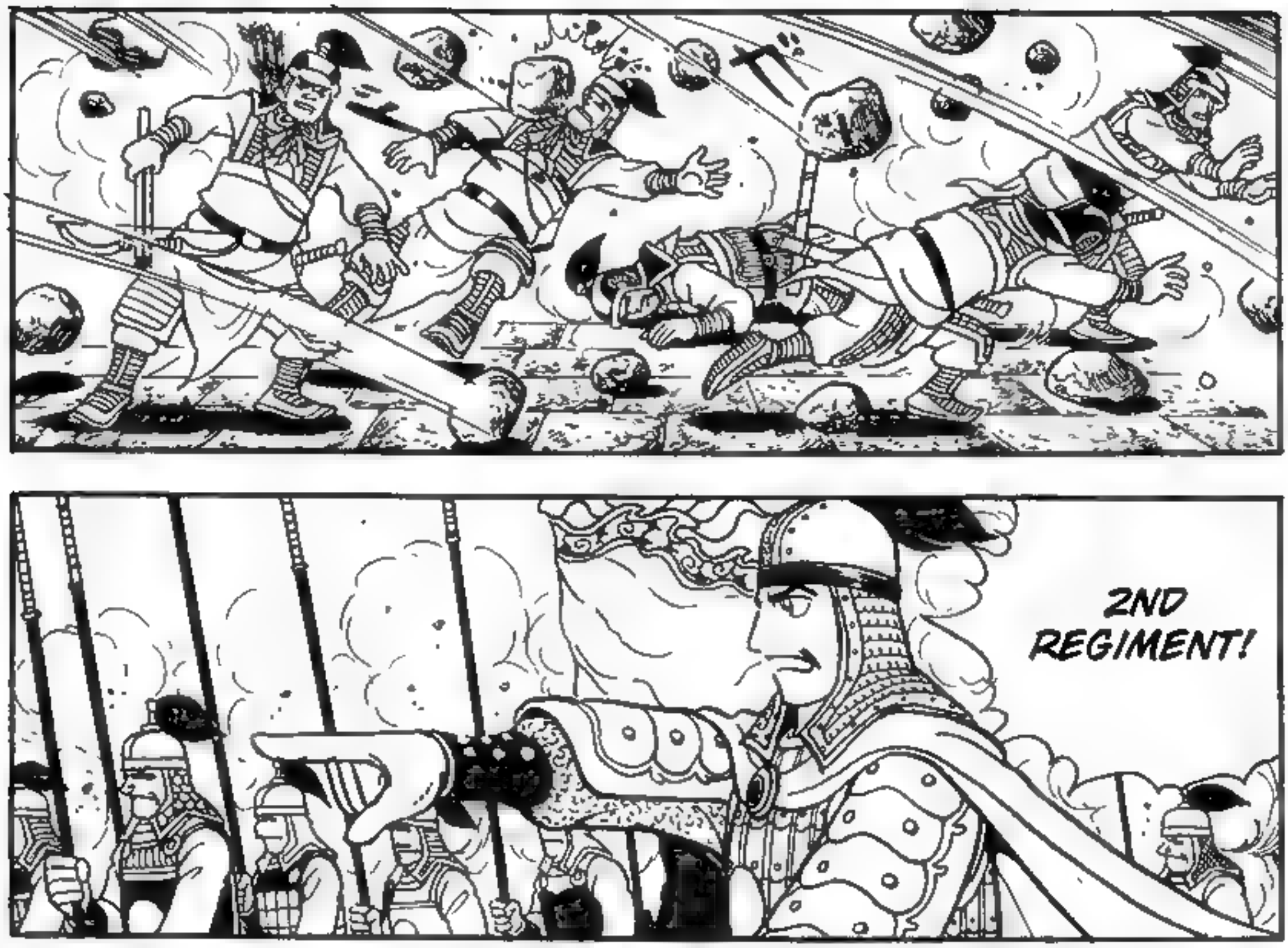


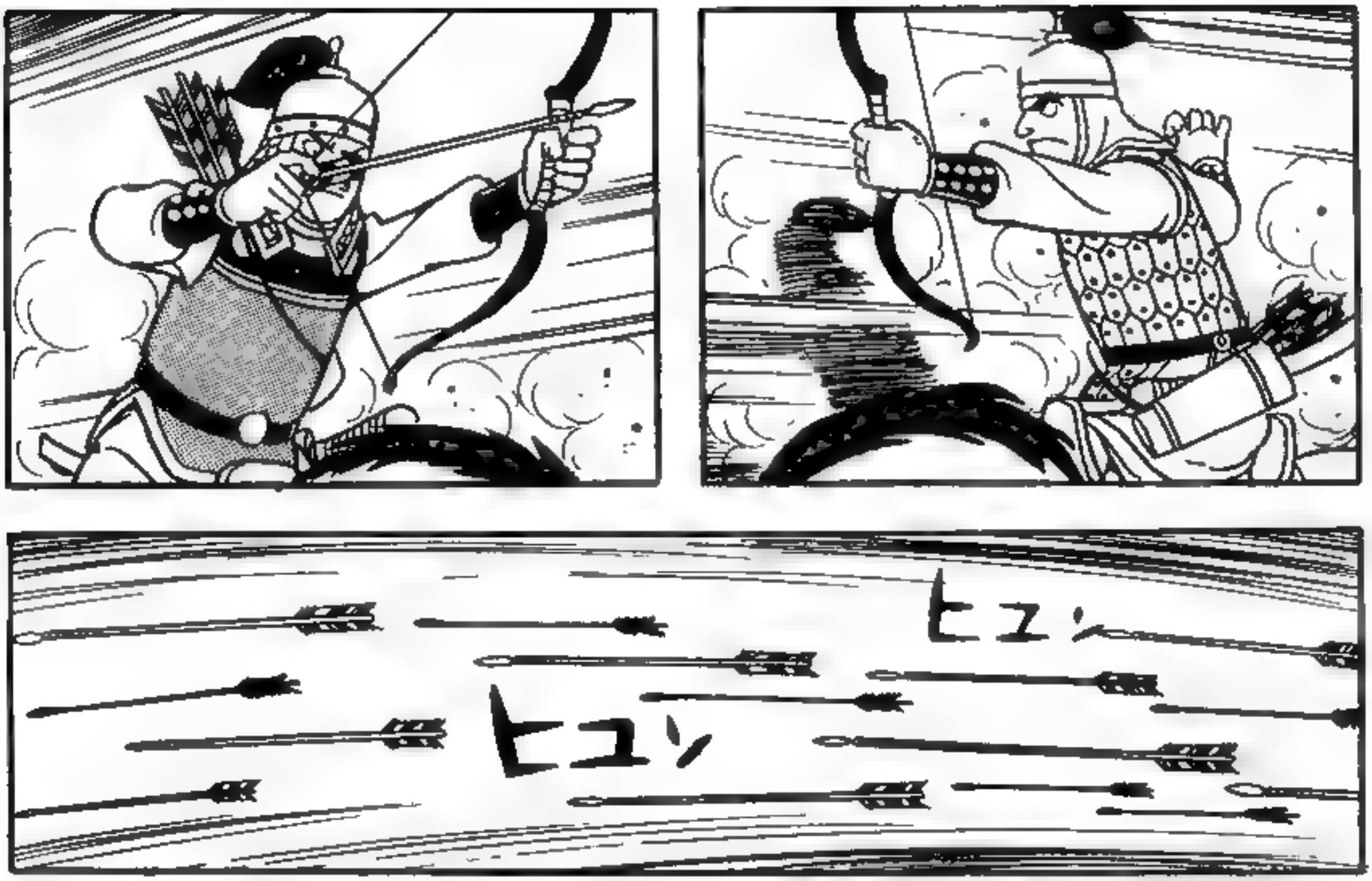





AHH!

AGHH!


2ND
REGIMENT!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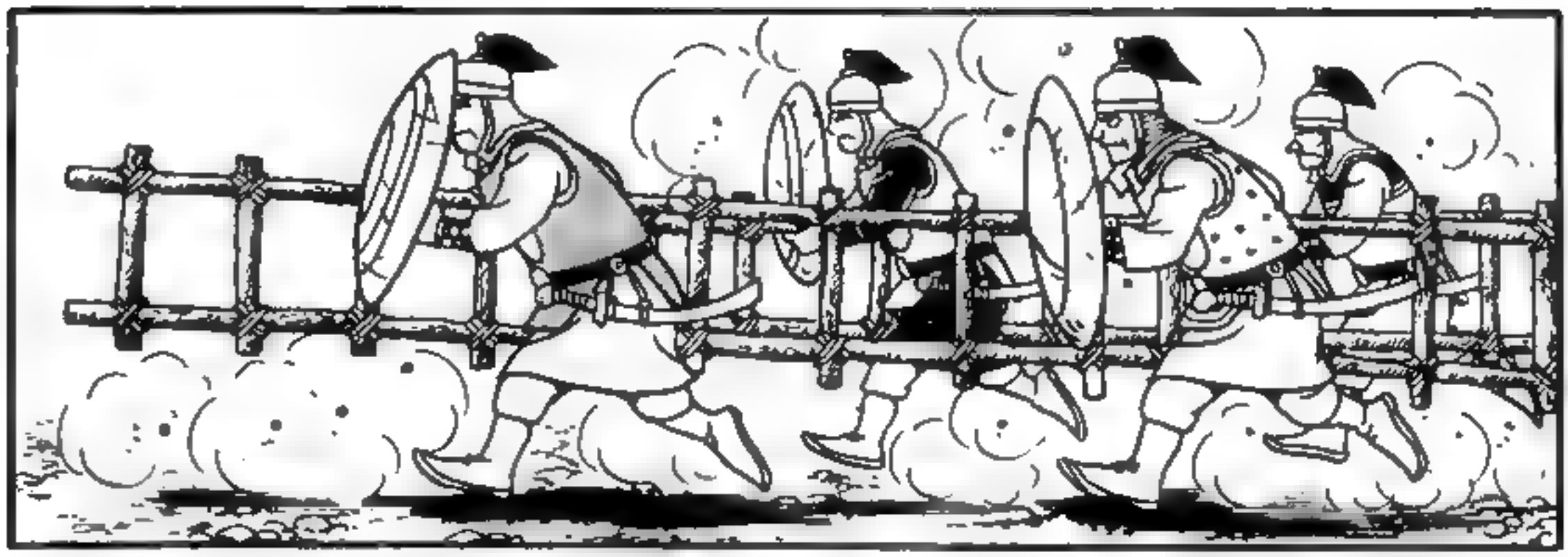
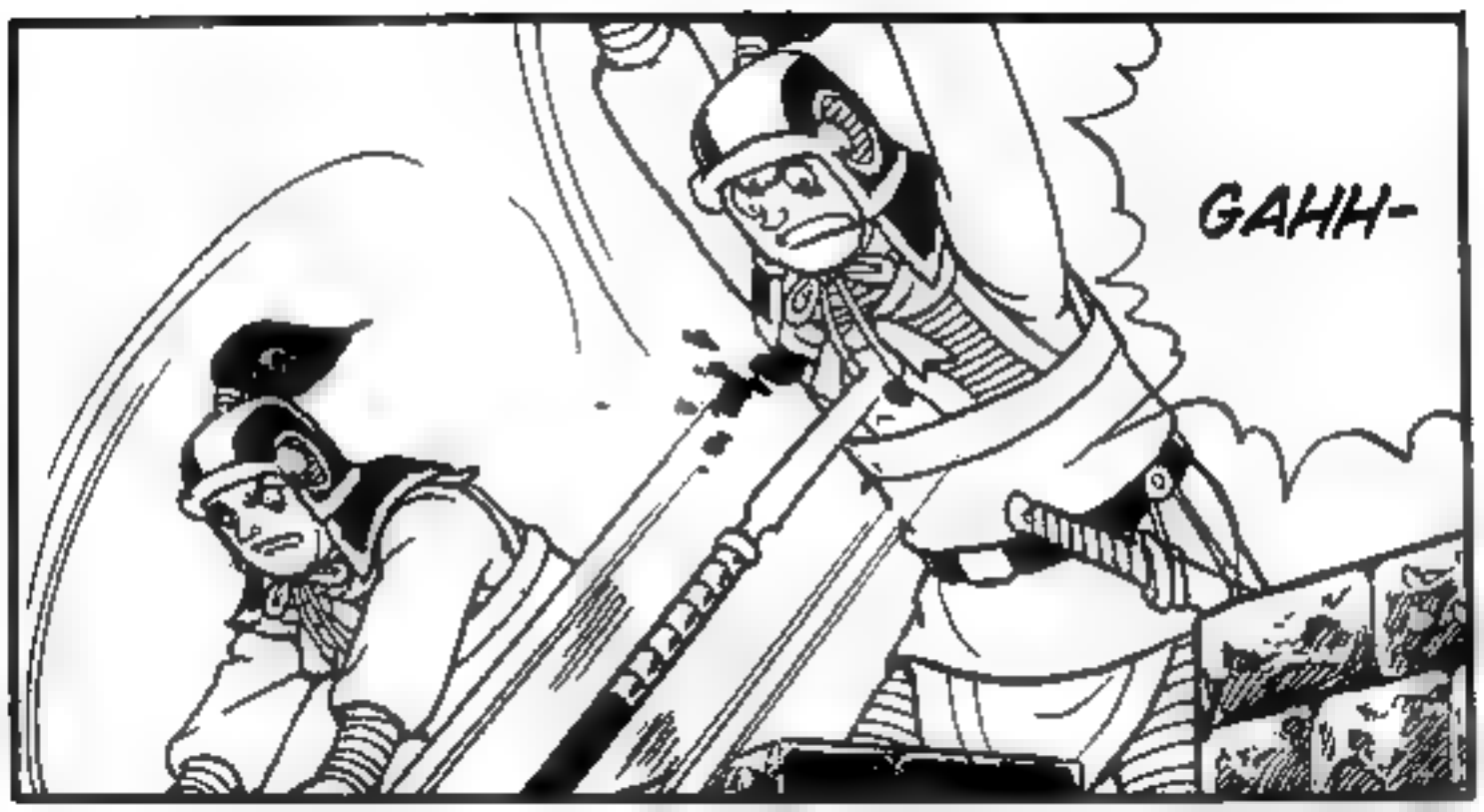
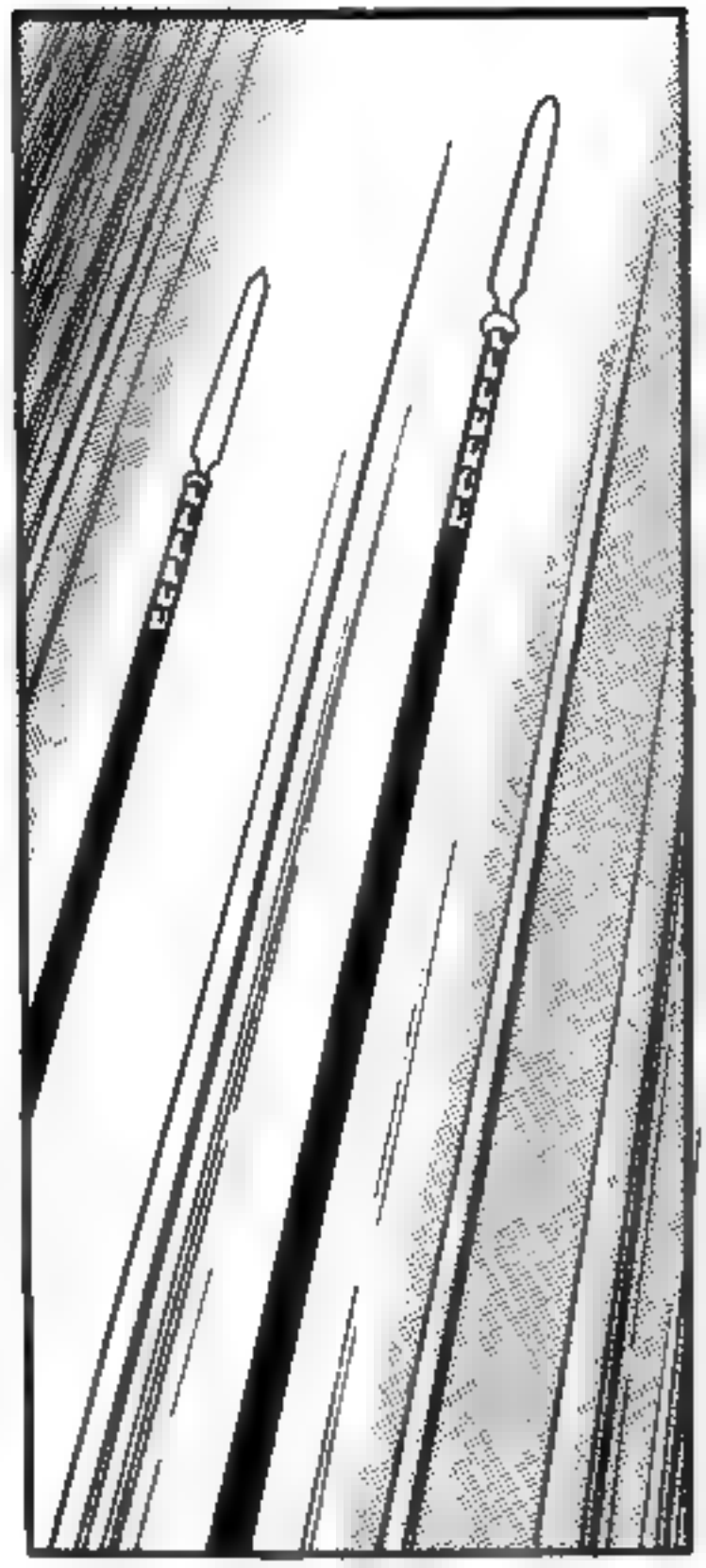
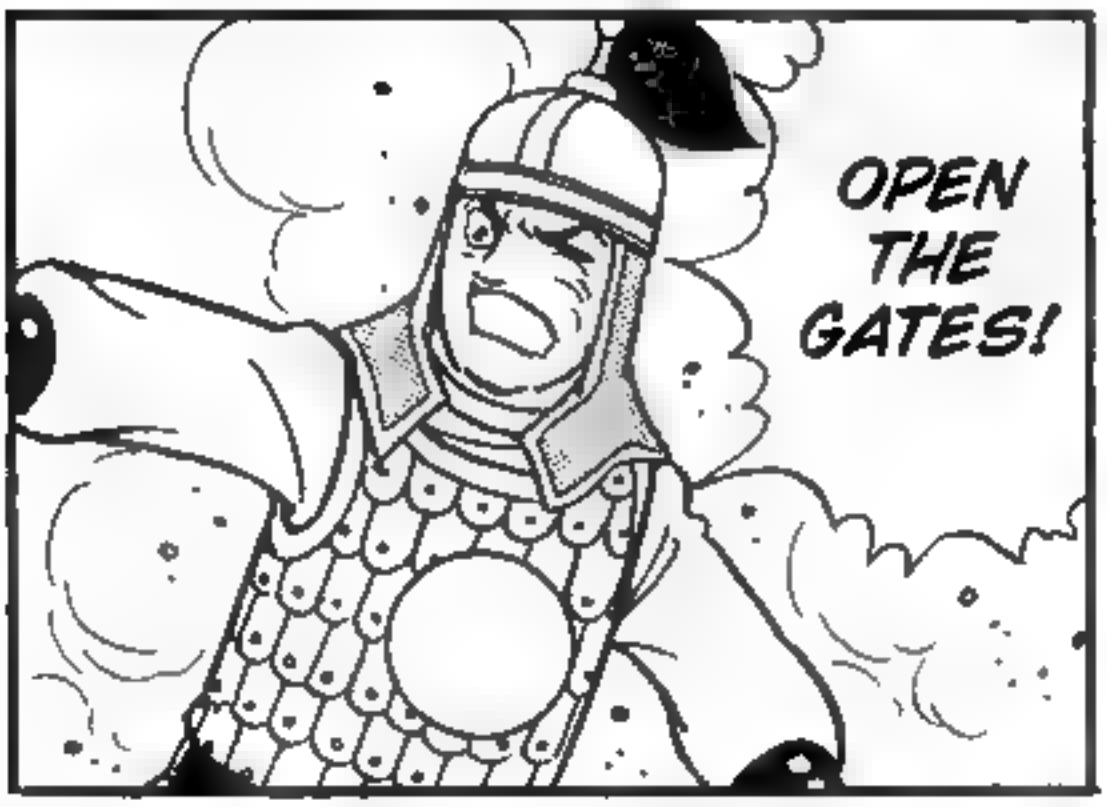
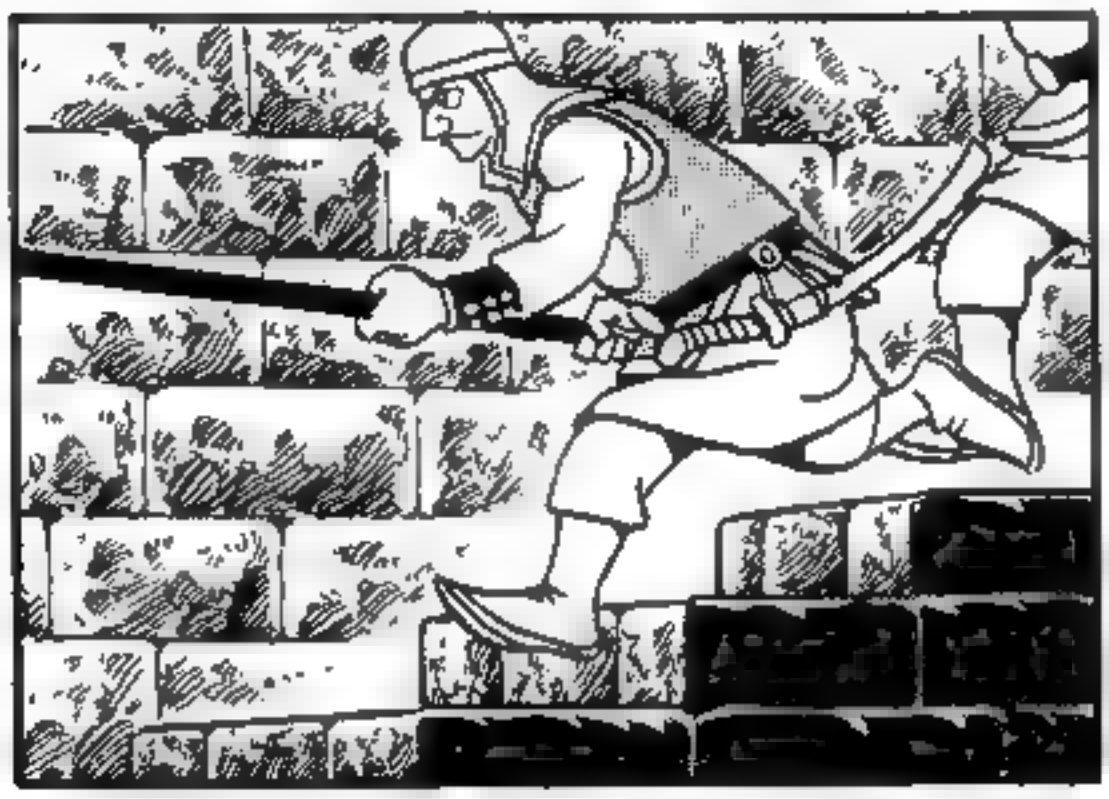


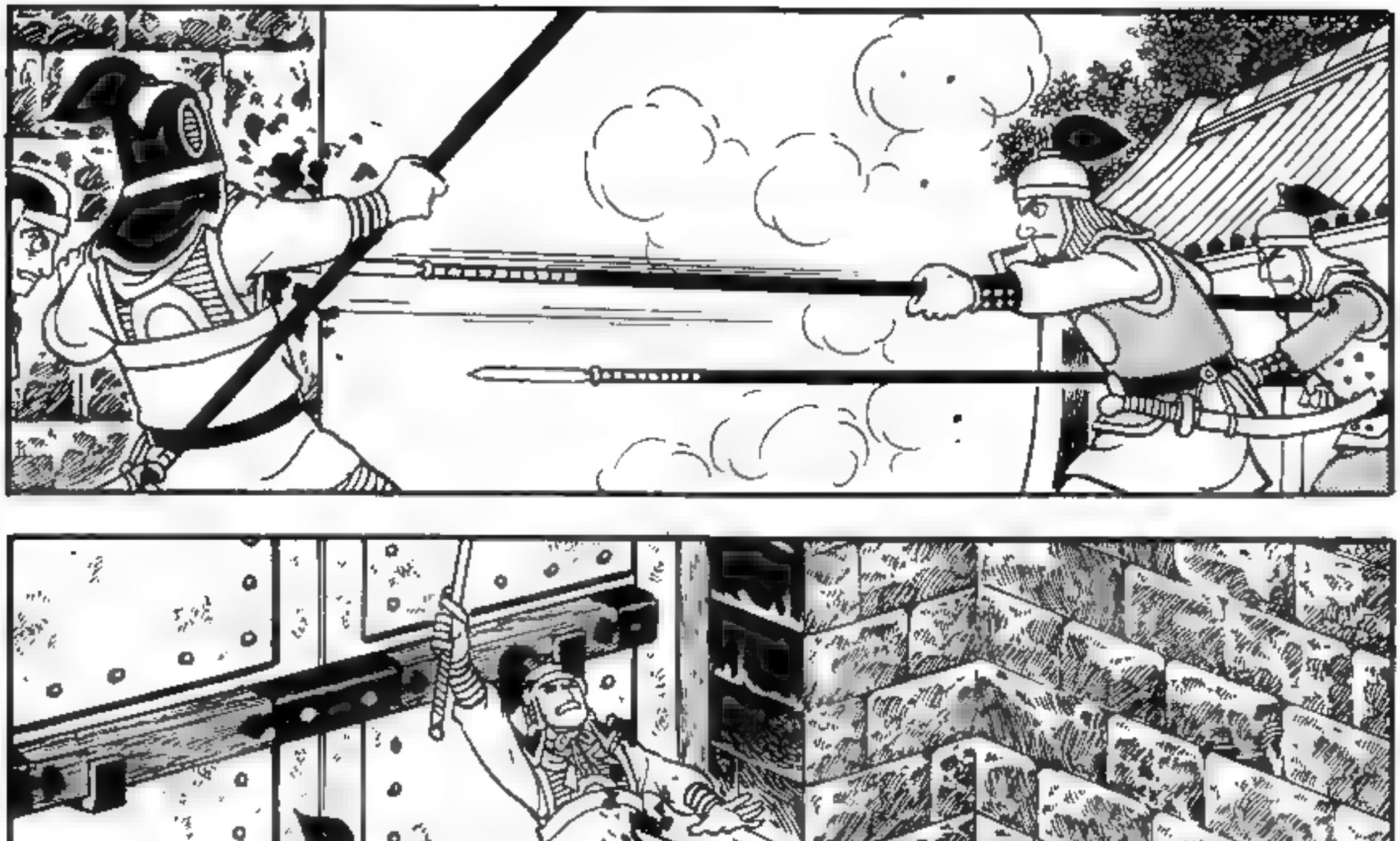

GAHH-

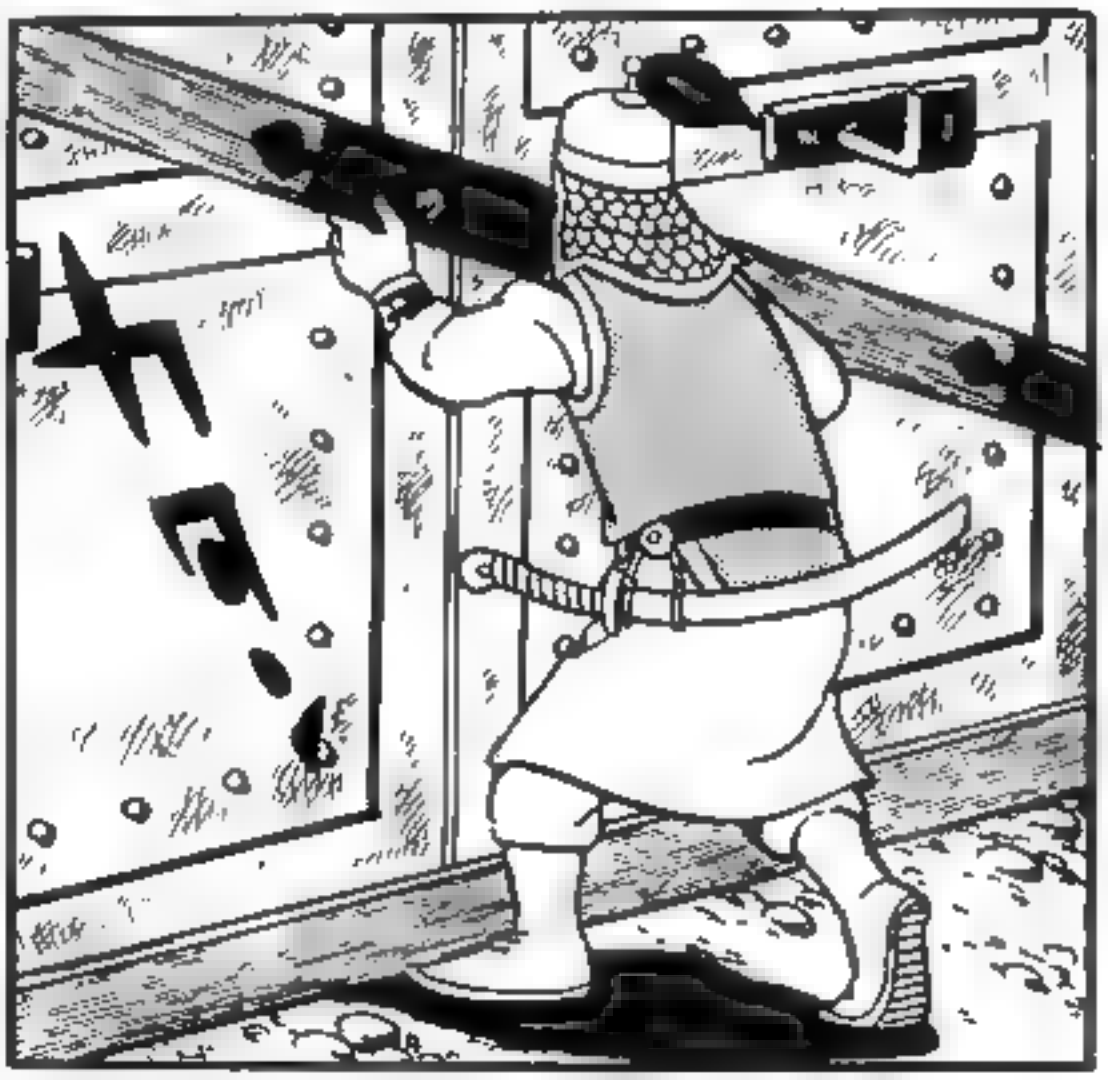


UGH...

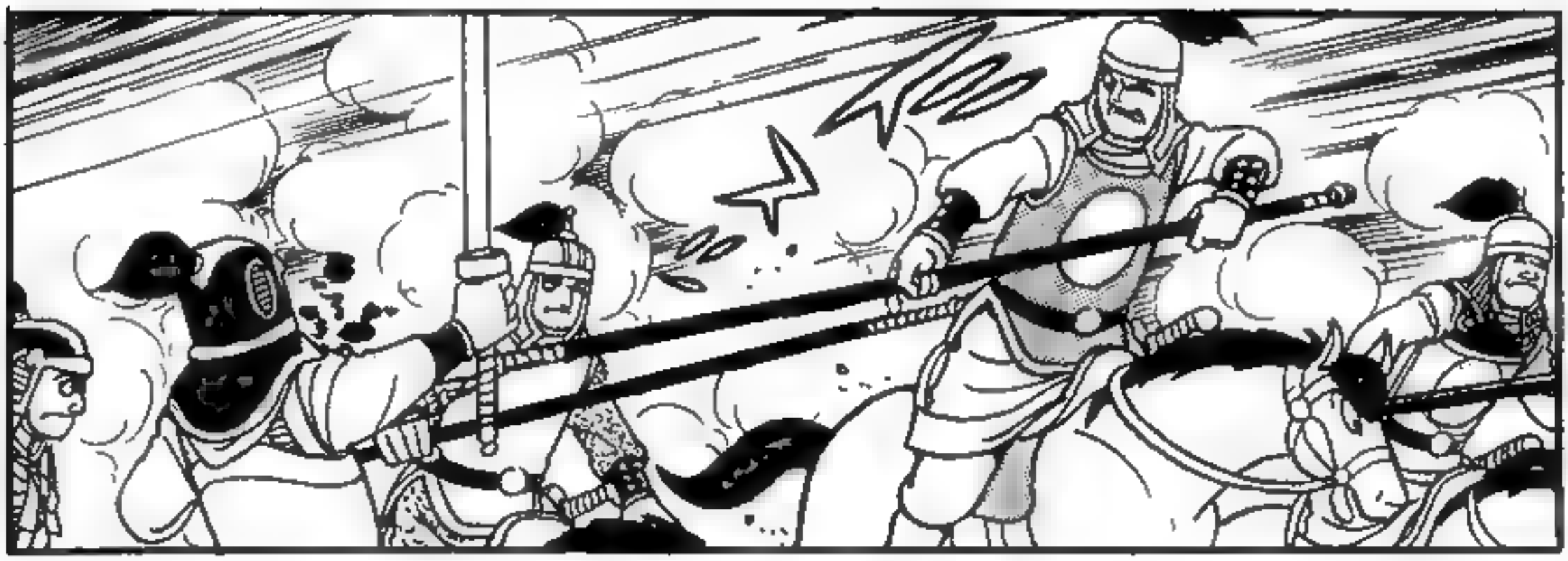

OPEN THE GATES!

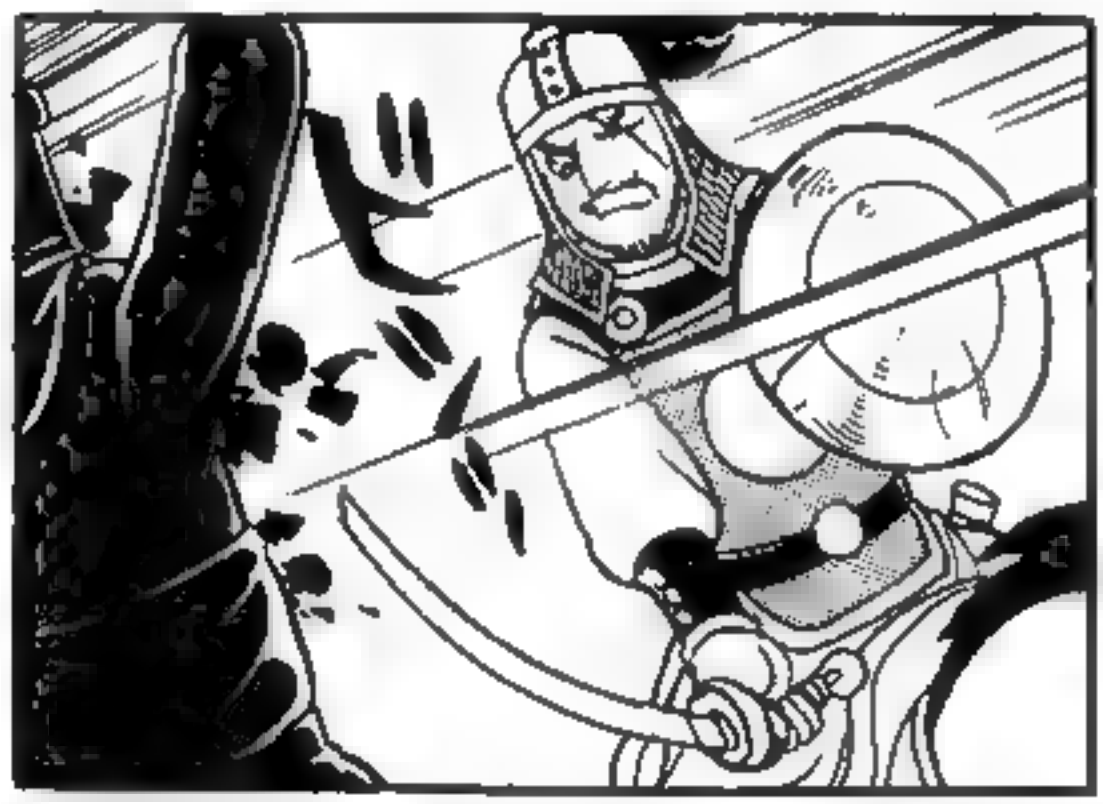


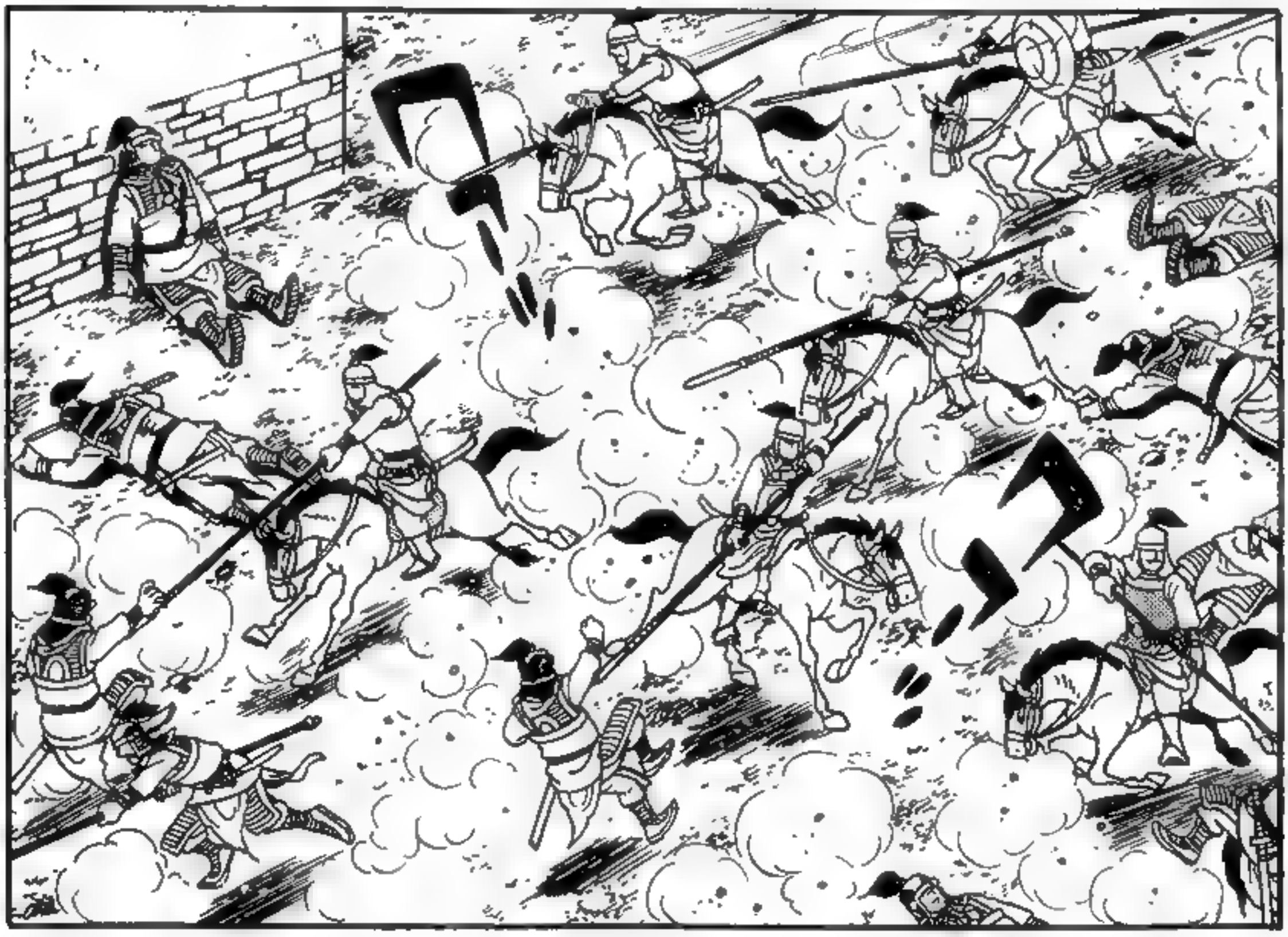




NOW!





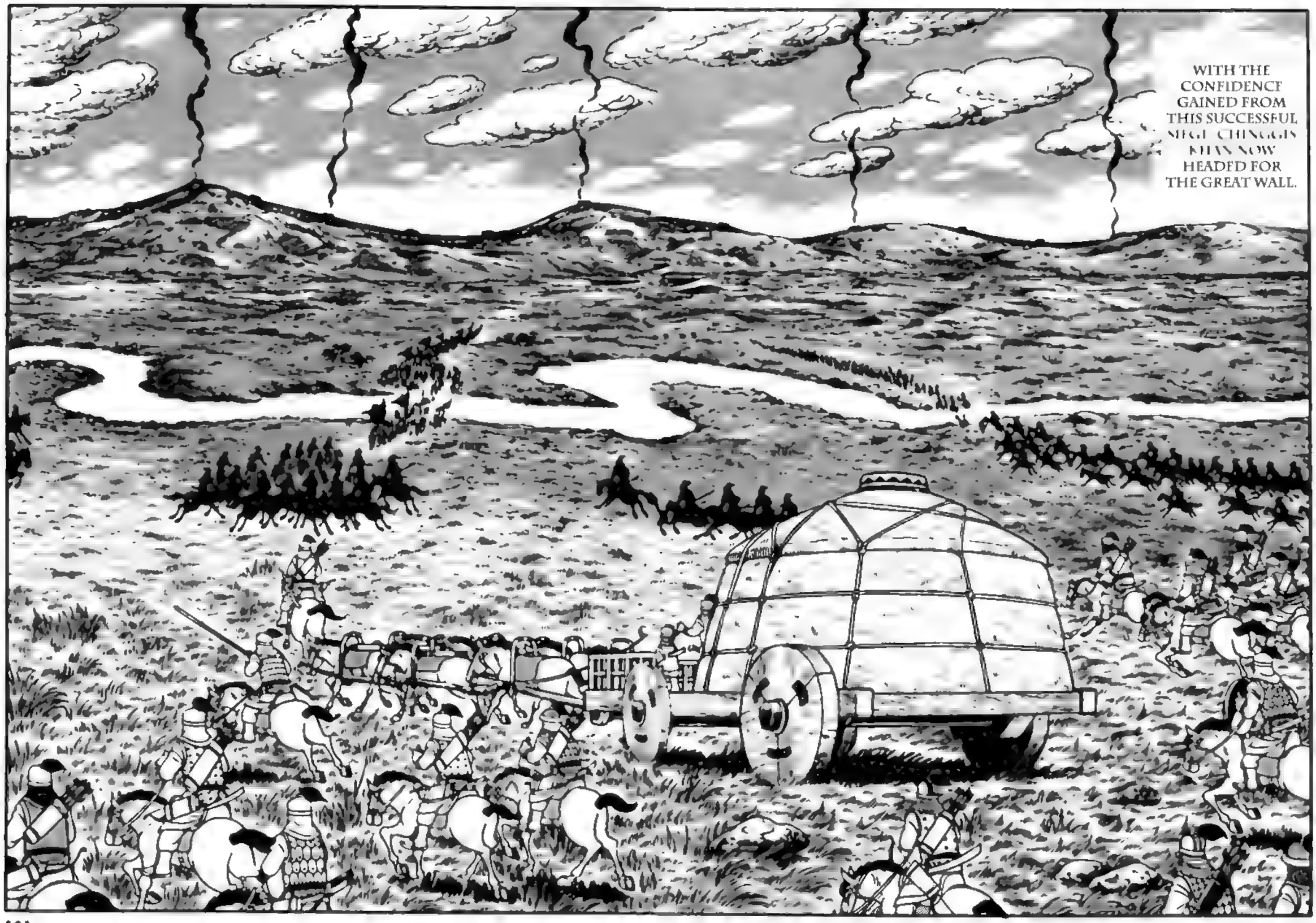


THE FORT WAS CAPTURED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

YES, NEXT WILL BE THE GREAT WALL ITSELF.

THE OUTER DEFENSE RING HAS FALLEN TO OUR HANDS!

LET US MAKE HASTE TO THE GREAT WALL!


WITH THE CONFIDENCE GAINED FROM THIS SUCCESSFUL SIEGE, CHINGGIS KHAN NOW HEADED FOR THE GREAT WALL.

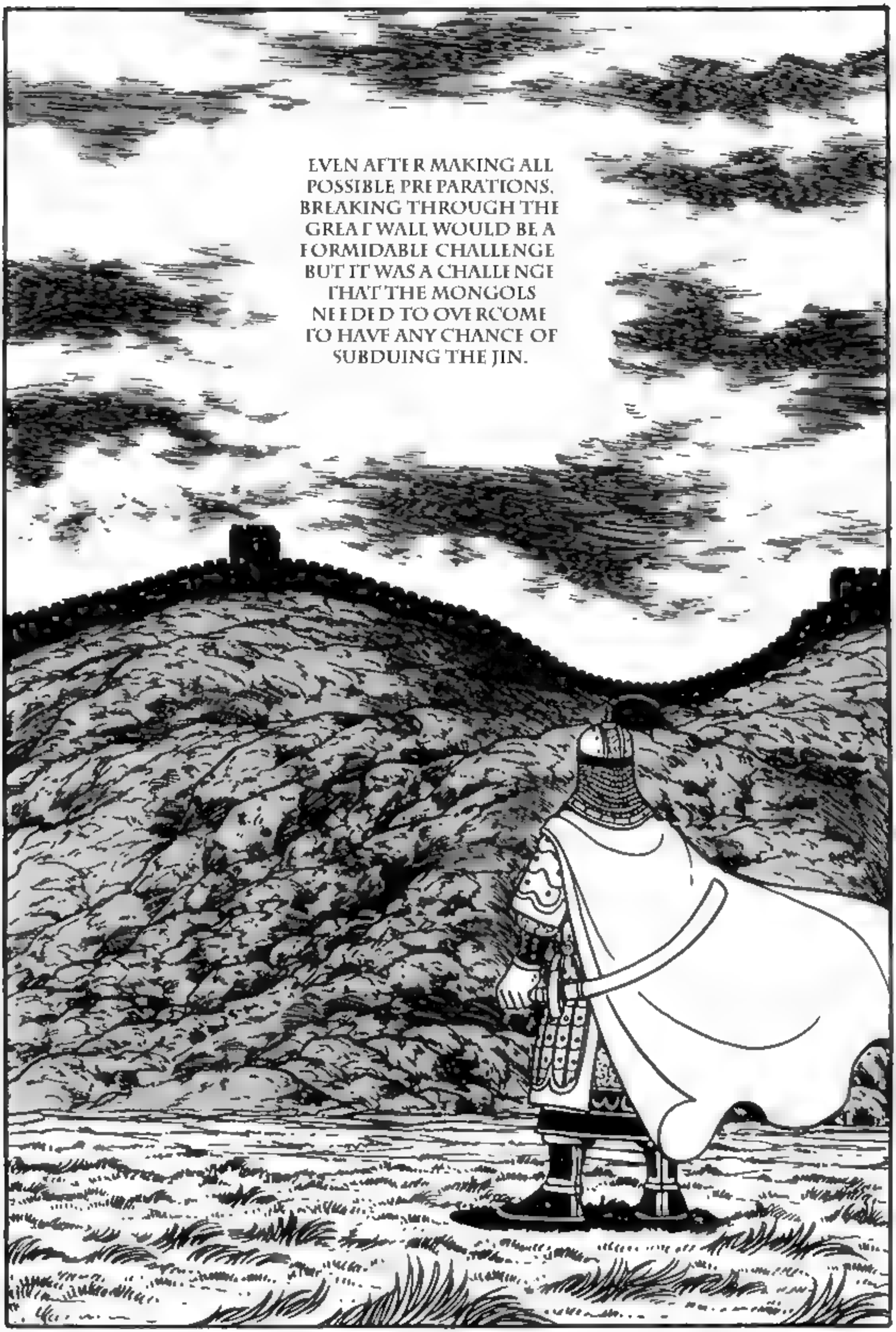
LISTEN UP. THE GREAT WALL IS ON SLOPED TERRAIN AND EVEN APPROACHING IT WILL BE DIFFICULT AS OUR TROOPS WILL COME UNDER HEAVY CROSSBOW FIRE.

YES.

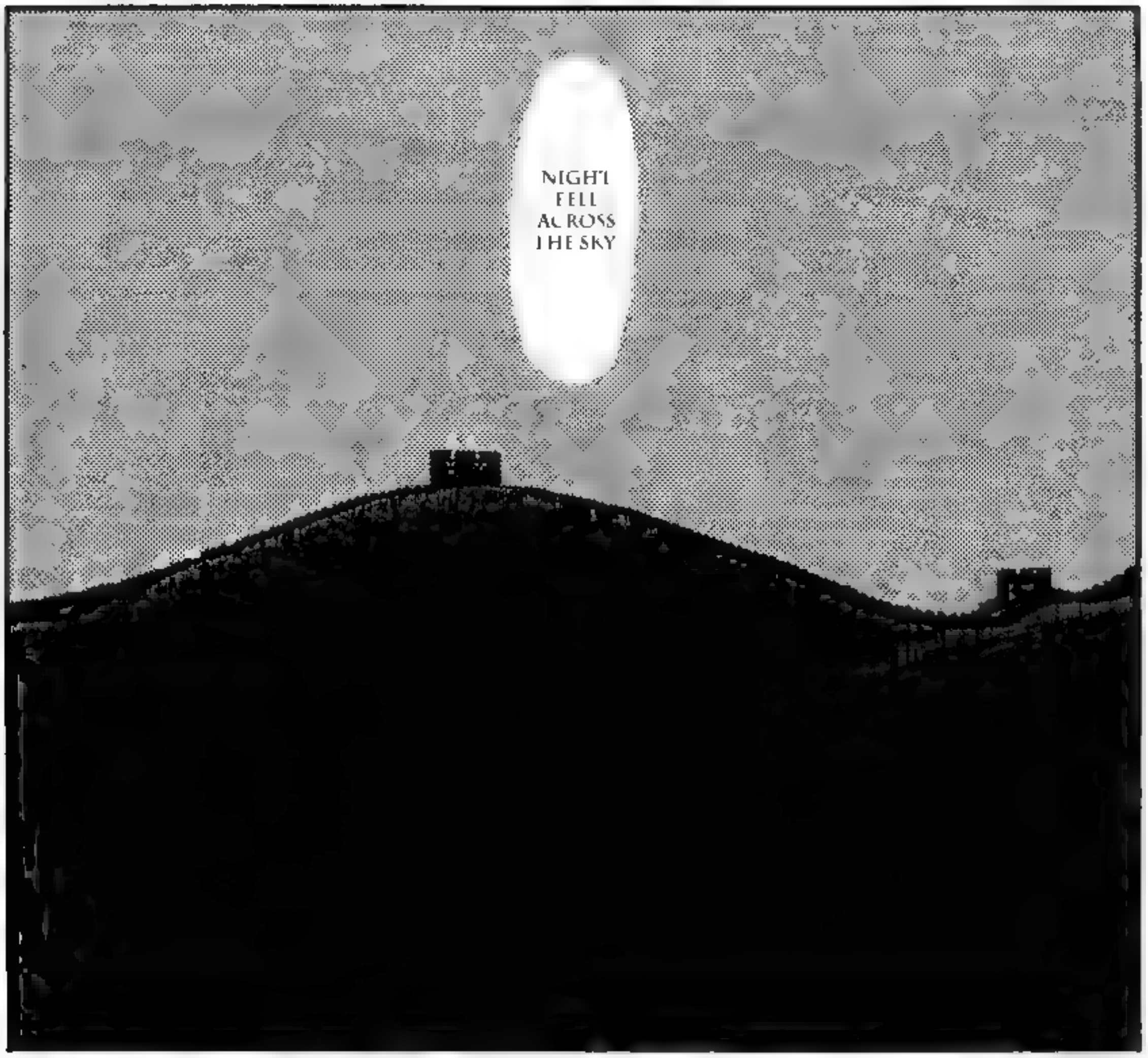
WE WILL THUS ATTACK AT NIGHT WHEN WE'LL BE LESS VISIBLE TO THE ENEMY GARRISON. REST YOUR MEN UNTIL THEN.

THE SOLDIERS FEASTED ON DRIED MEAT AND WAITED FOR NIGHT TO FALL.

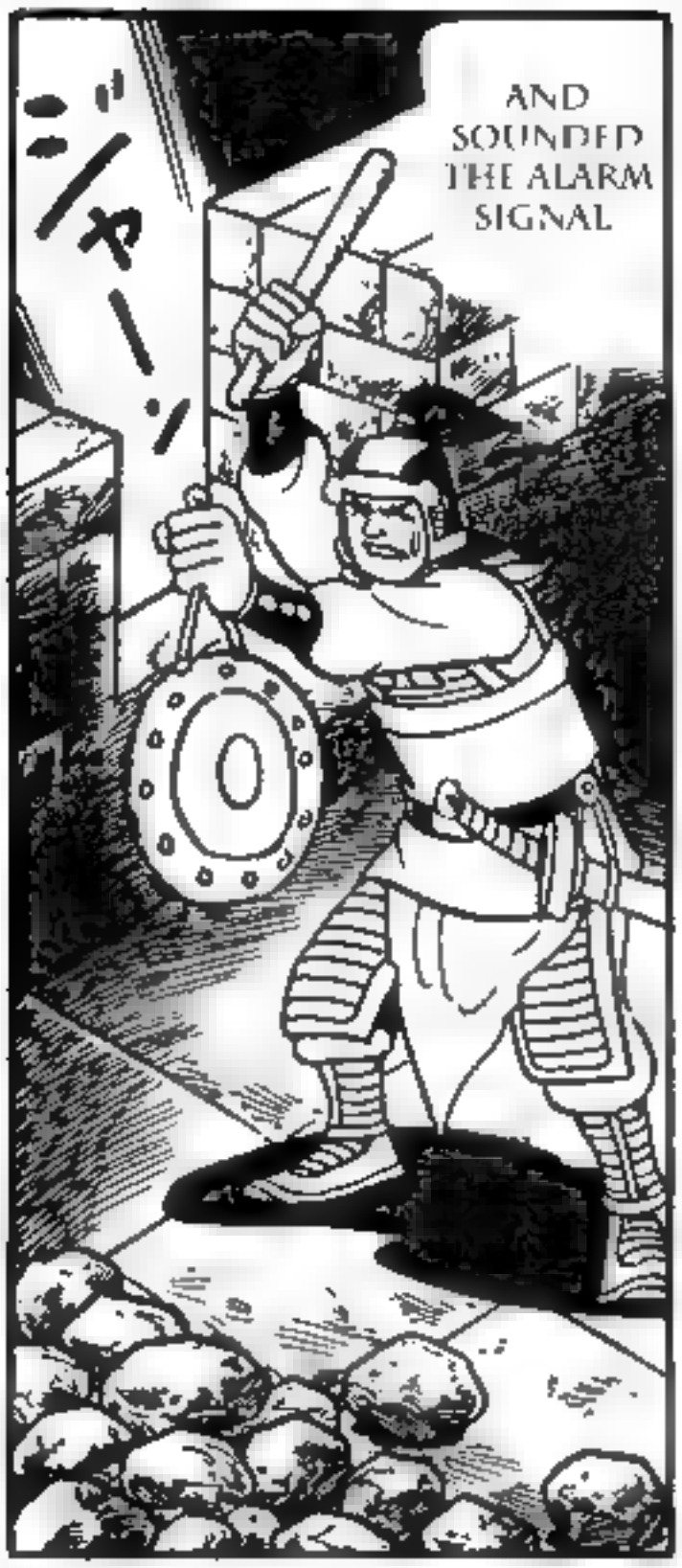
EVEN AFTER MAKING ALL POSSIBLE PREPARATIONS, BREAKING THROUGH THE GREAT WALL WOULD BE A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE BUT IT WAS A CHALLENGE THAT THE MONGOLS NEEDED TO OVERCOME TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUBDUING THE JIN.



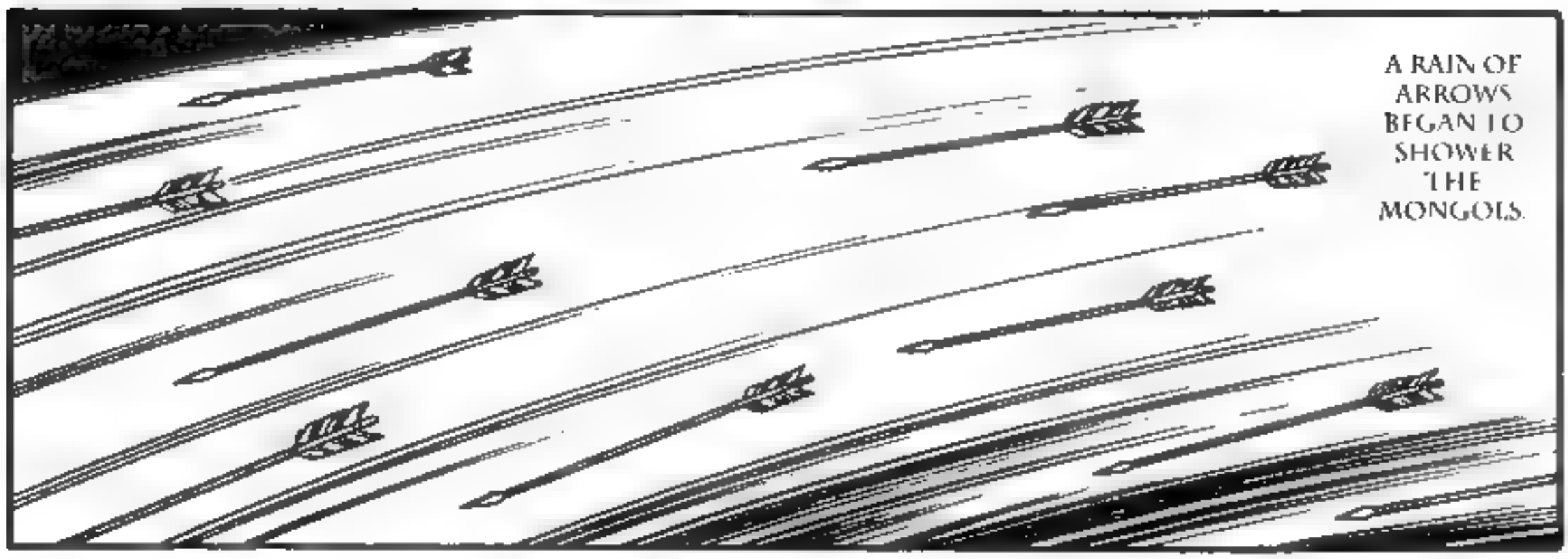
Breaking through the Great Wall


NIGHT
FELL
ACROSS
THE SKY

THE
MONGOLS
CREEPED UP
TO THE
WALLS


AND SOUNDED THE ALARM SIGNAL
ピィー

THE NIGHT WATCH SPOTTED THEM JUST BEFORE THEY REACHED THE WALLS.


A RAIN OF ARROWS BEGAN TO SHOWER THE MONGOLS.

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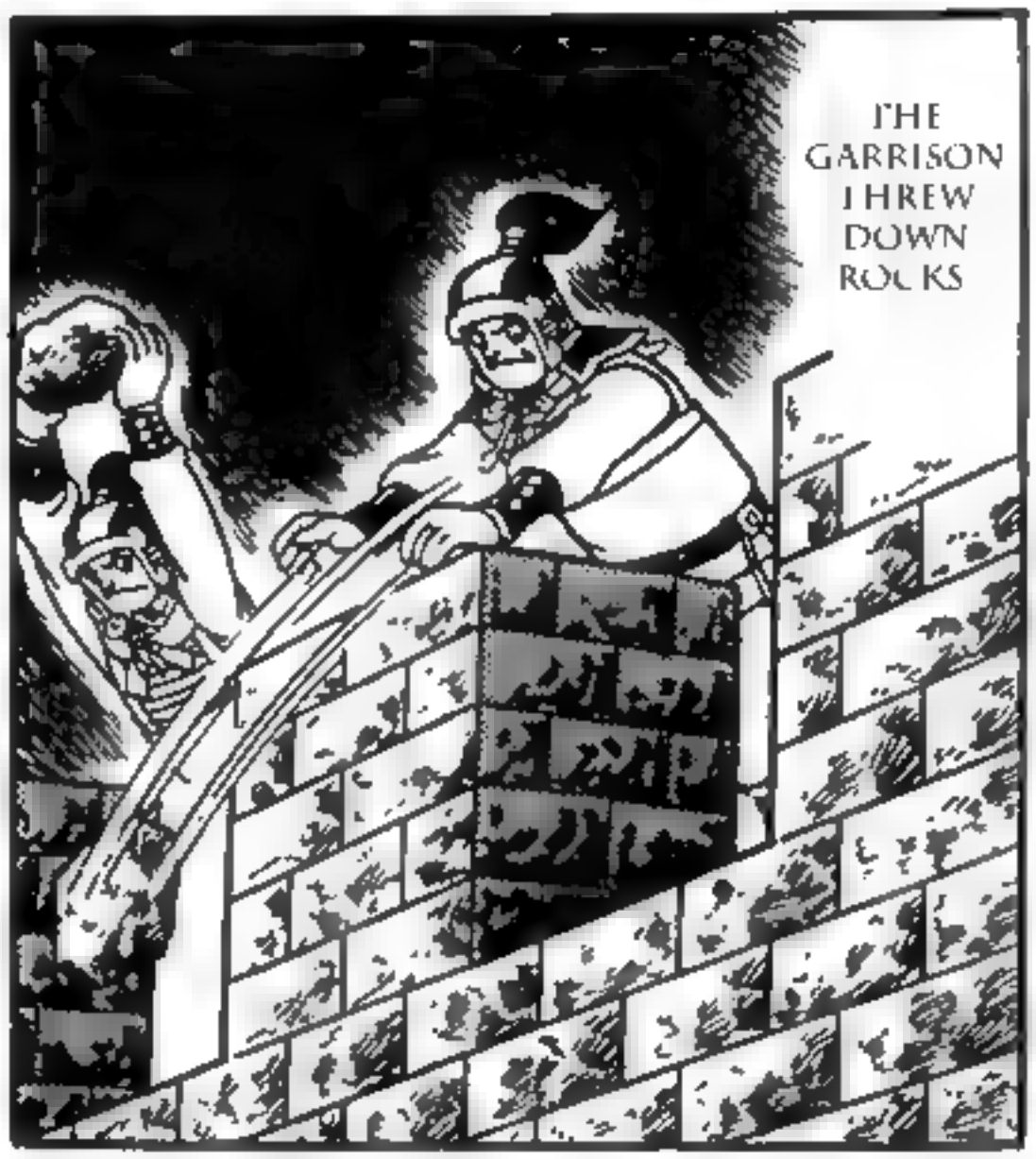
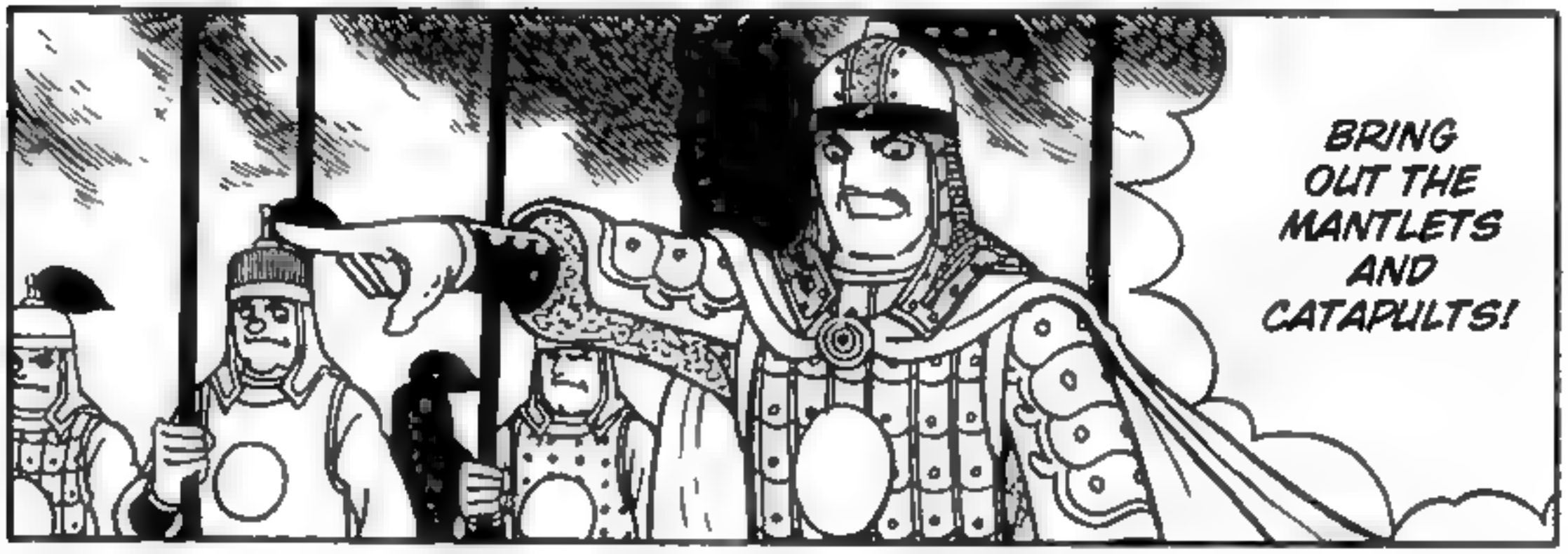
WHEN THE MONGOLS CONTINUED TO ADVANCE THROUGH THE STORM OF ARROWS

TO PREVENT ANY ENEMY FROM SCALING THE WALLS


THE GARRISON THREW DOWN ROCKS


BRING OUT THE MANTLETS AND CATAPULTS!

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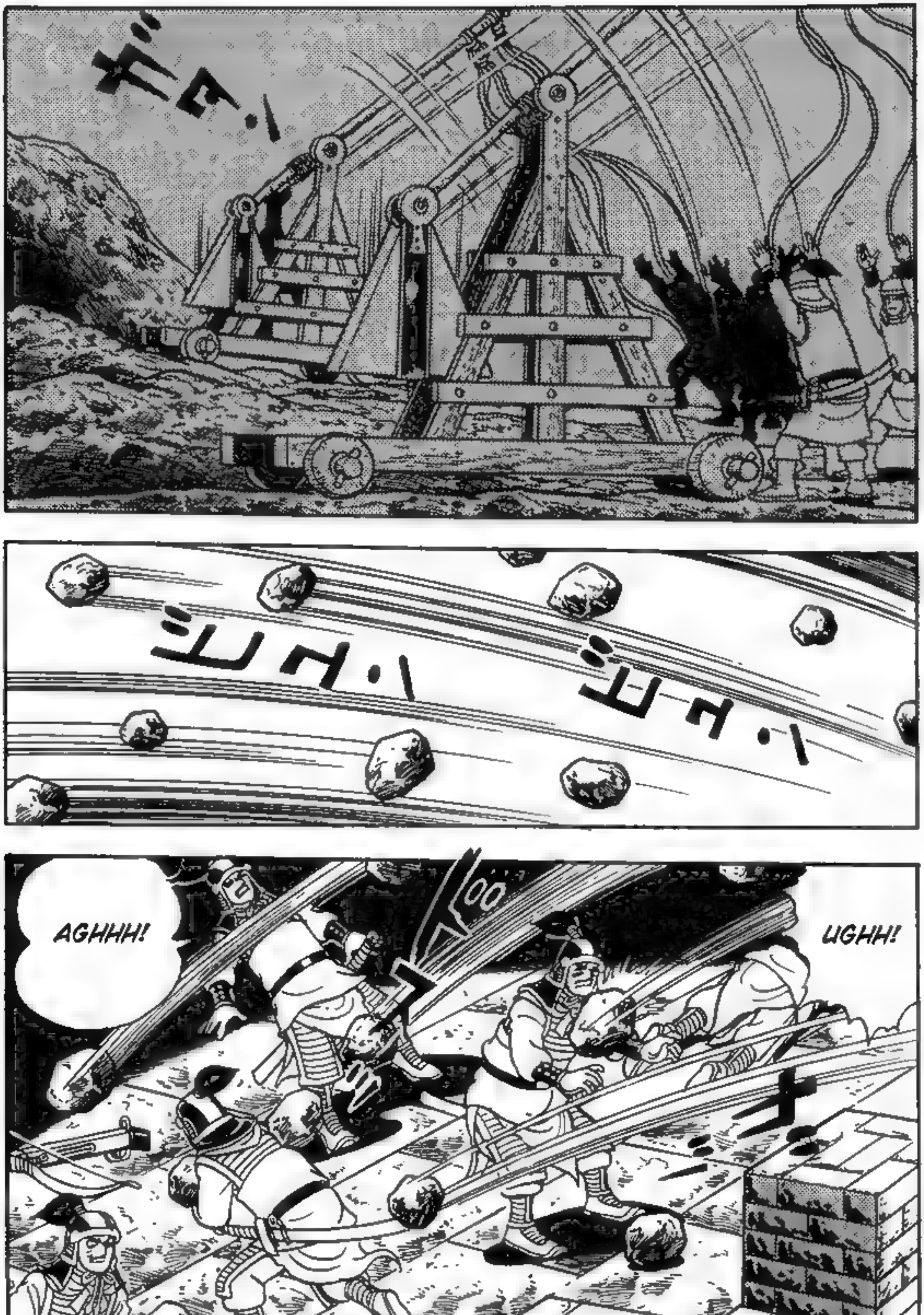
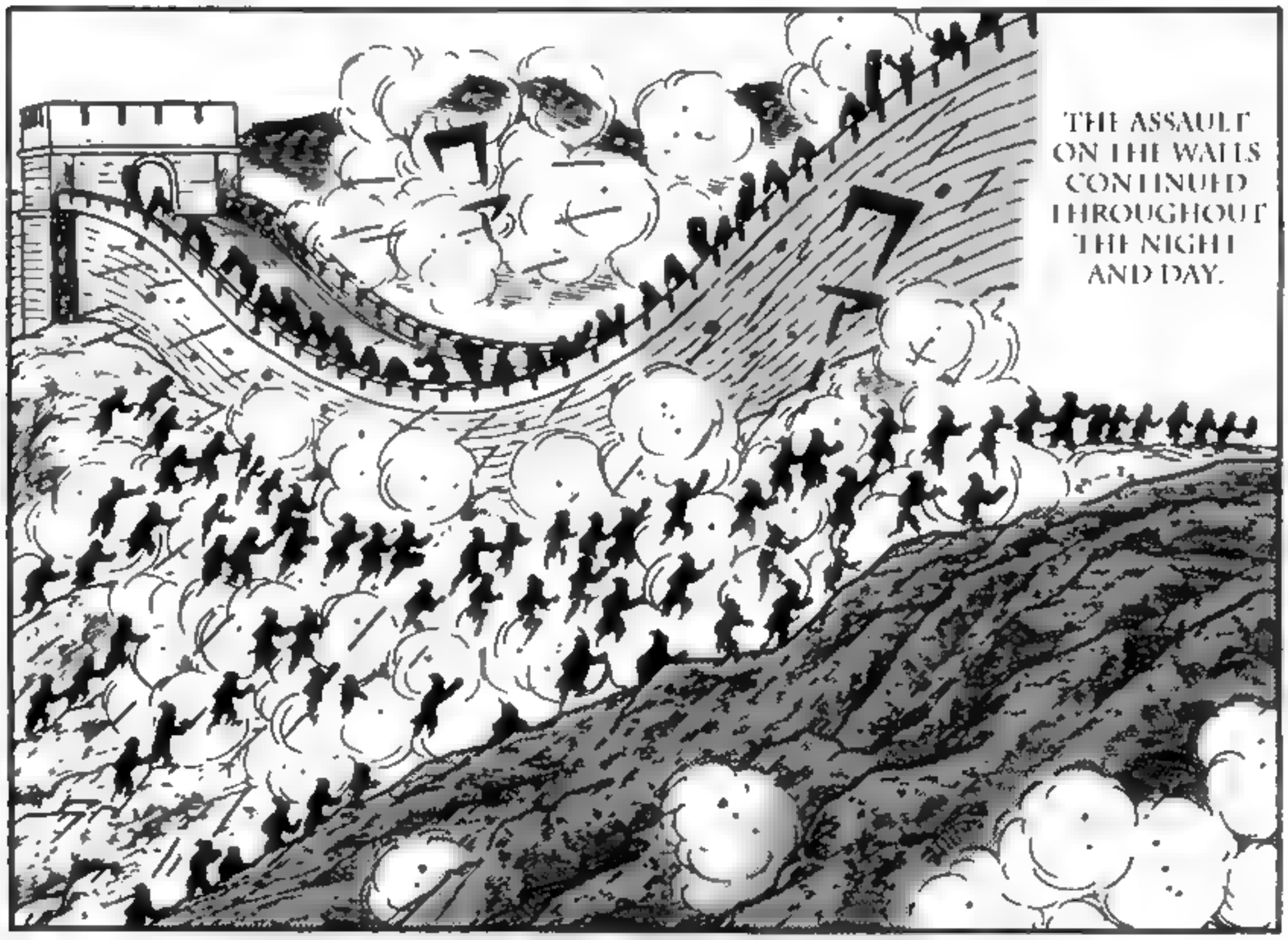
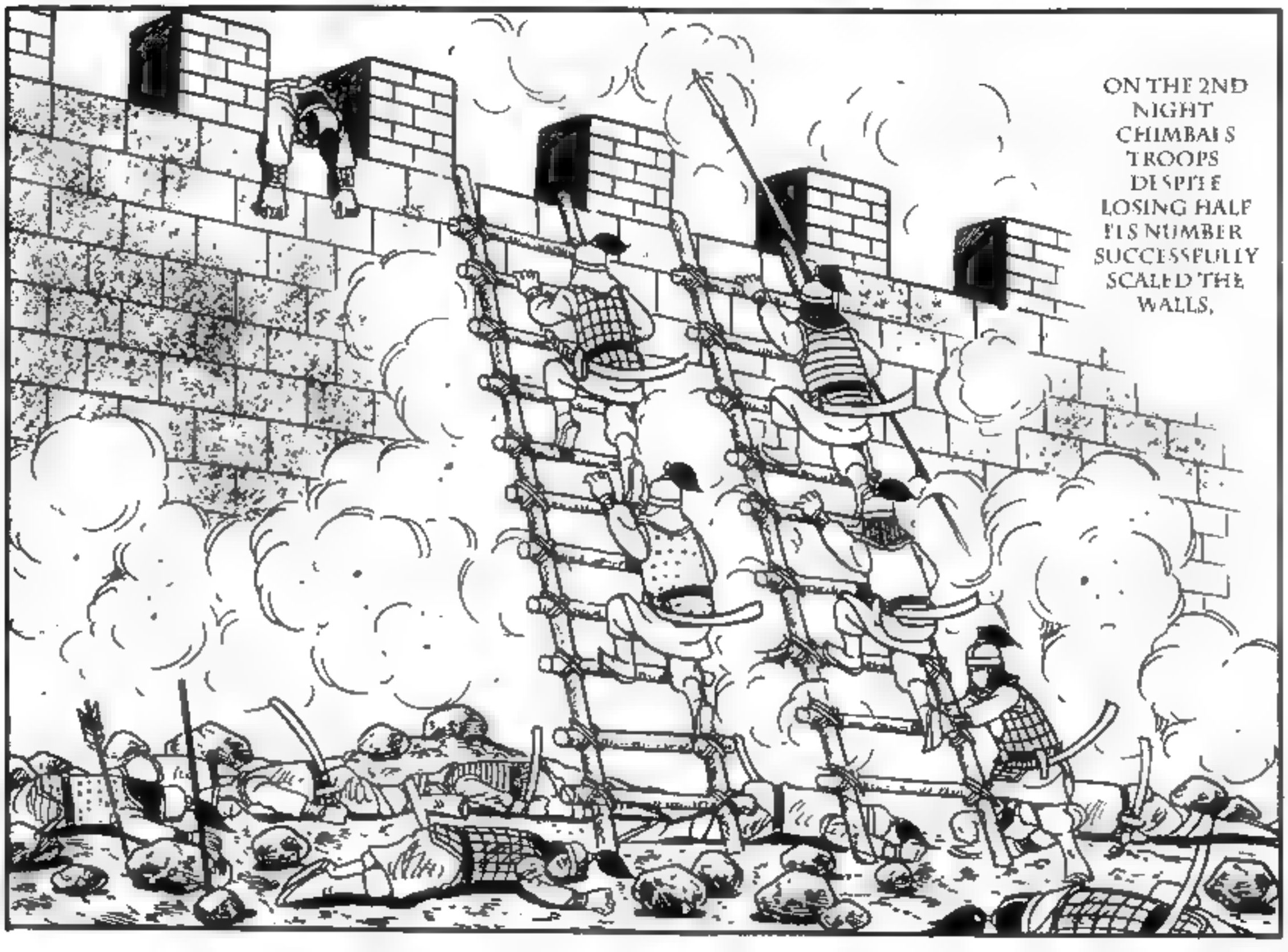
DAMN THEM!

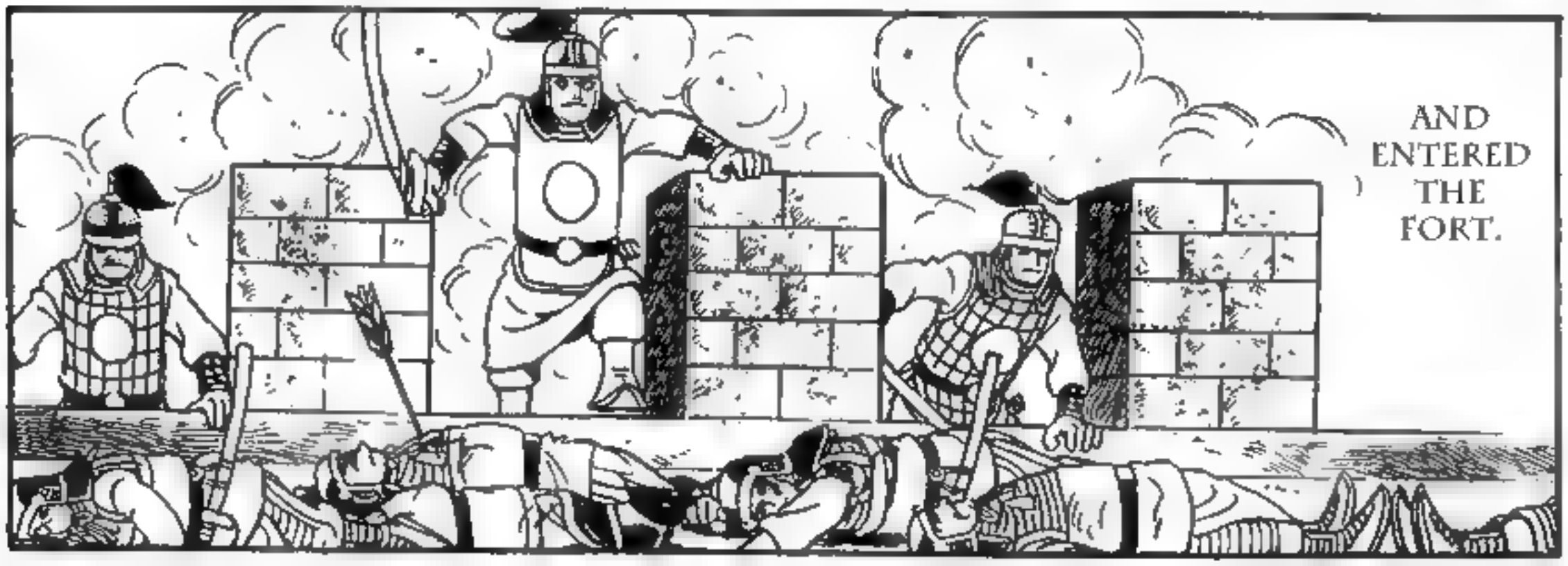

H.C.!
SHIN-HAN!
AGHHH!
UGHH!

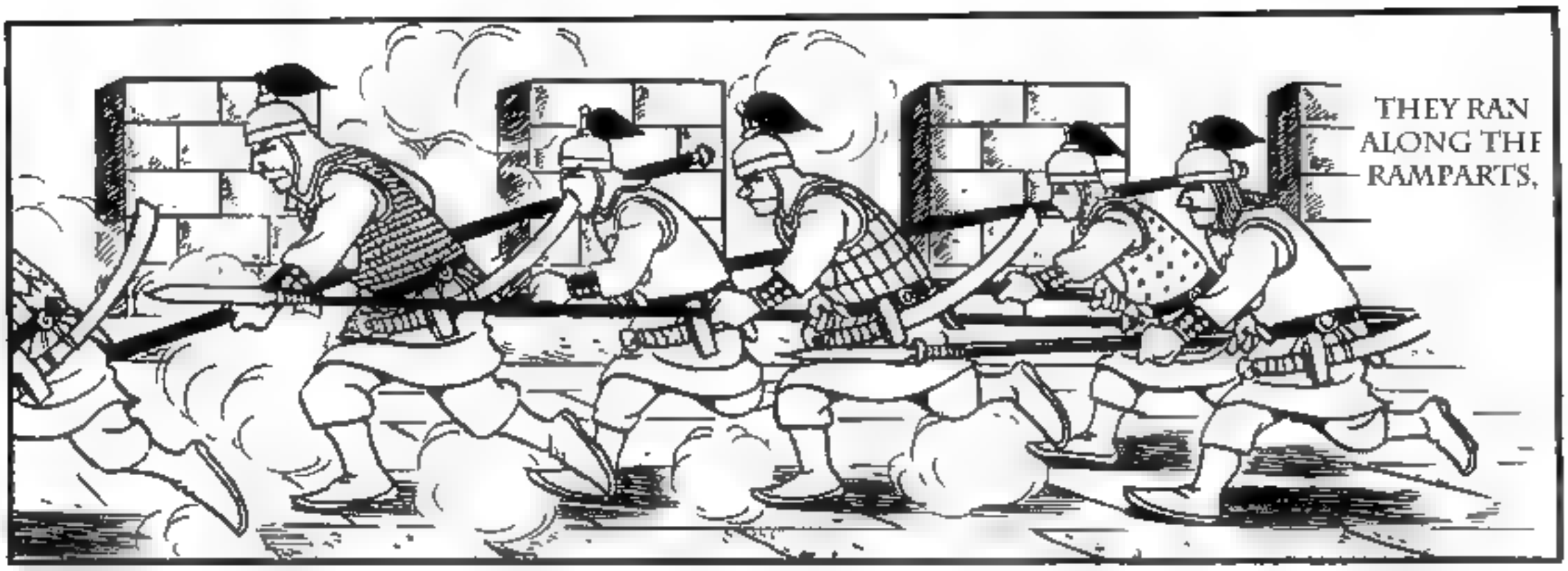
AGHHH!

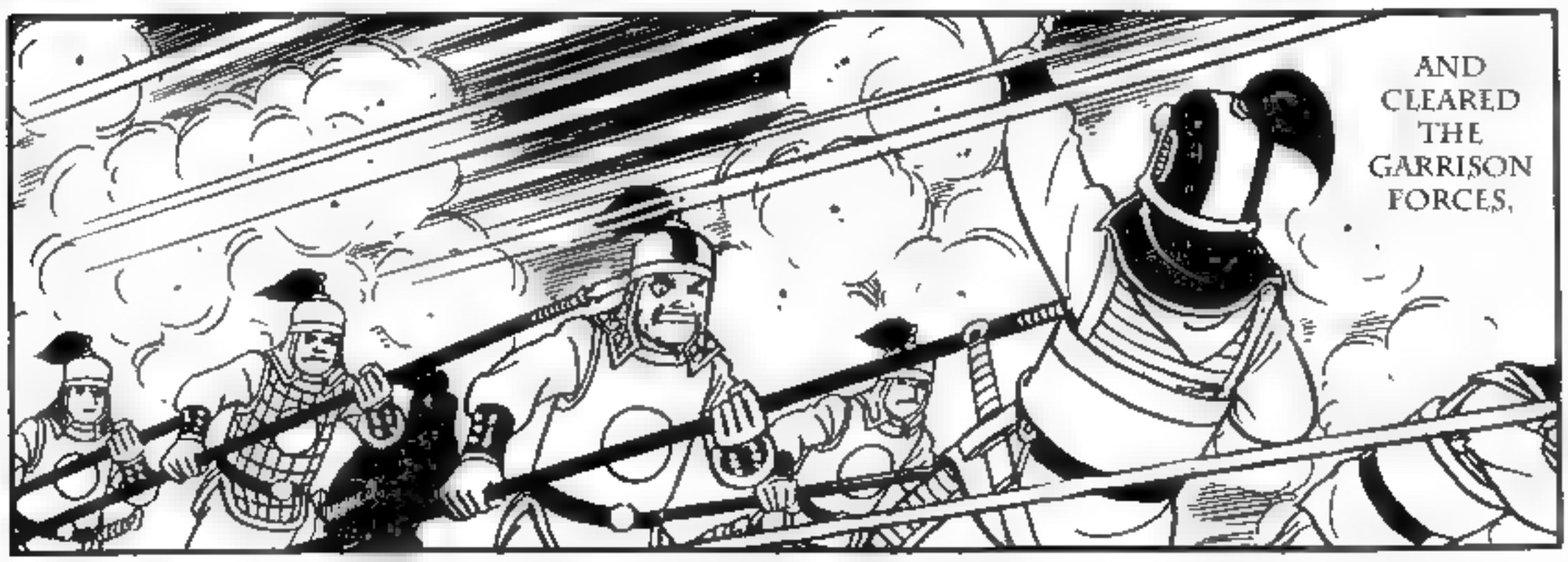

THE ASSAULT ON THE WALLS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND DAY.

CORPSES PILED UP ON BOTH SIDES.

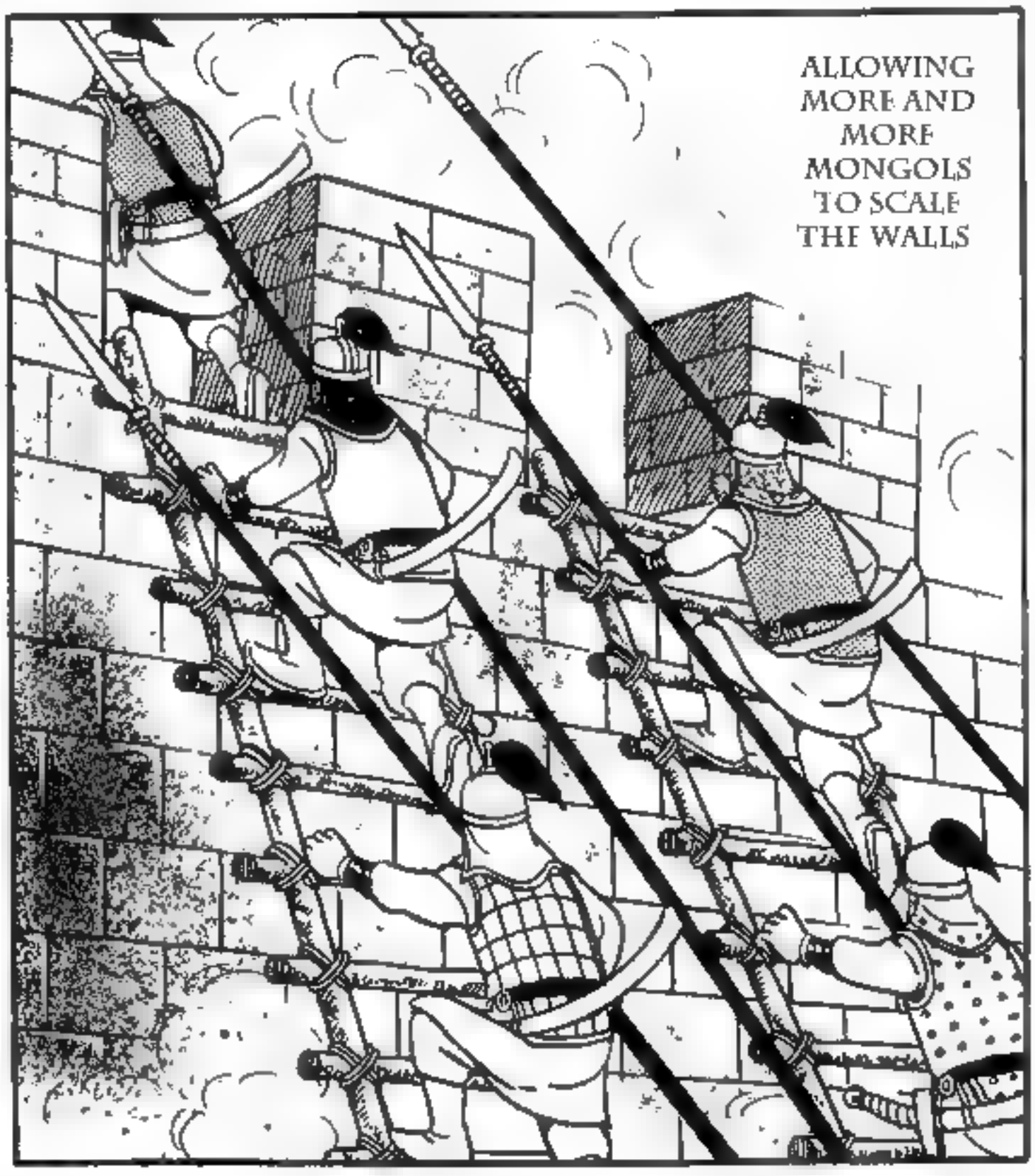

ON THE 2ND NIGHT CHIMBAI S TROOPS DESPITE LOSING HALF ITS NUMBER SUCCESSFULLY SCALED THE WALLS,

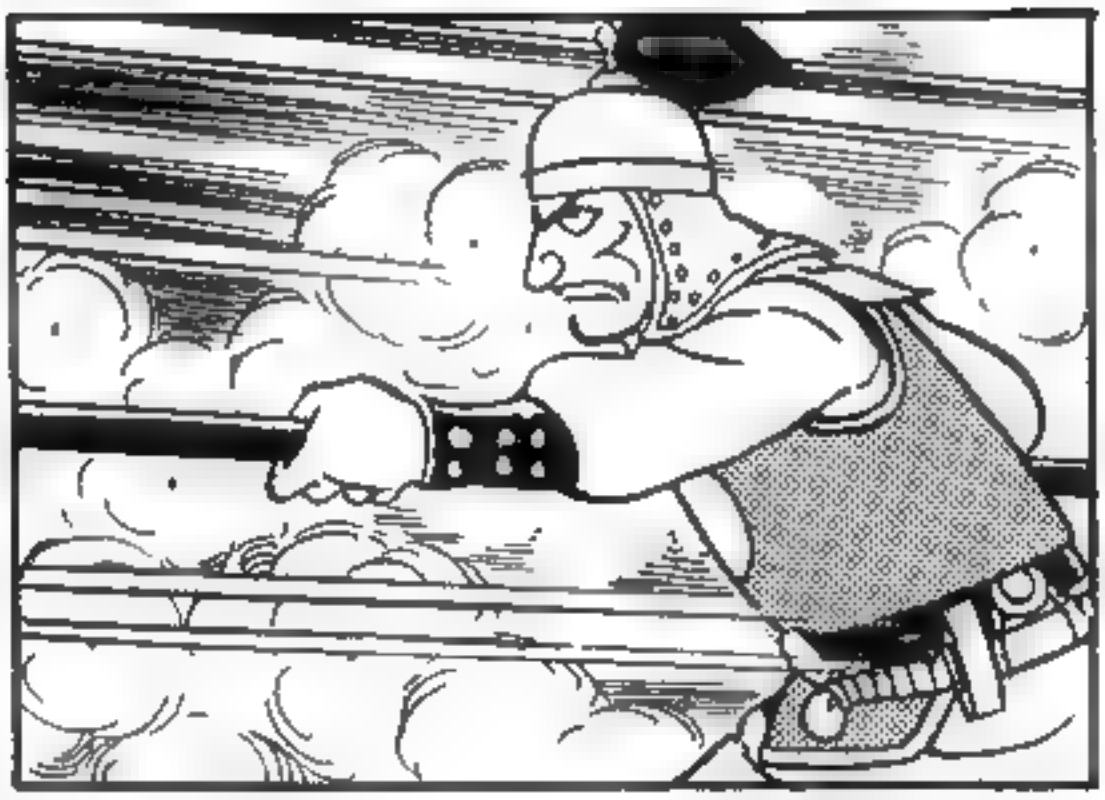

AND ENTERED THE FORT.

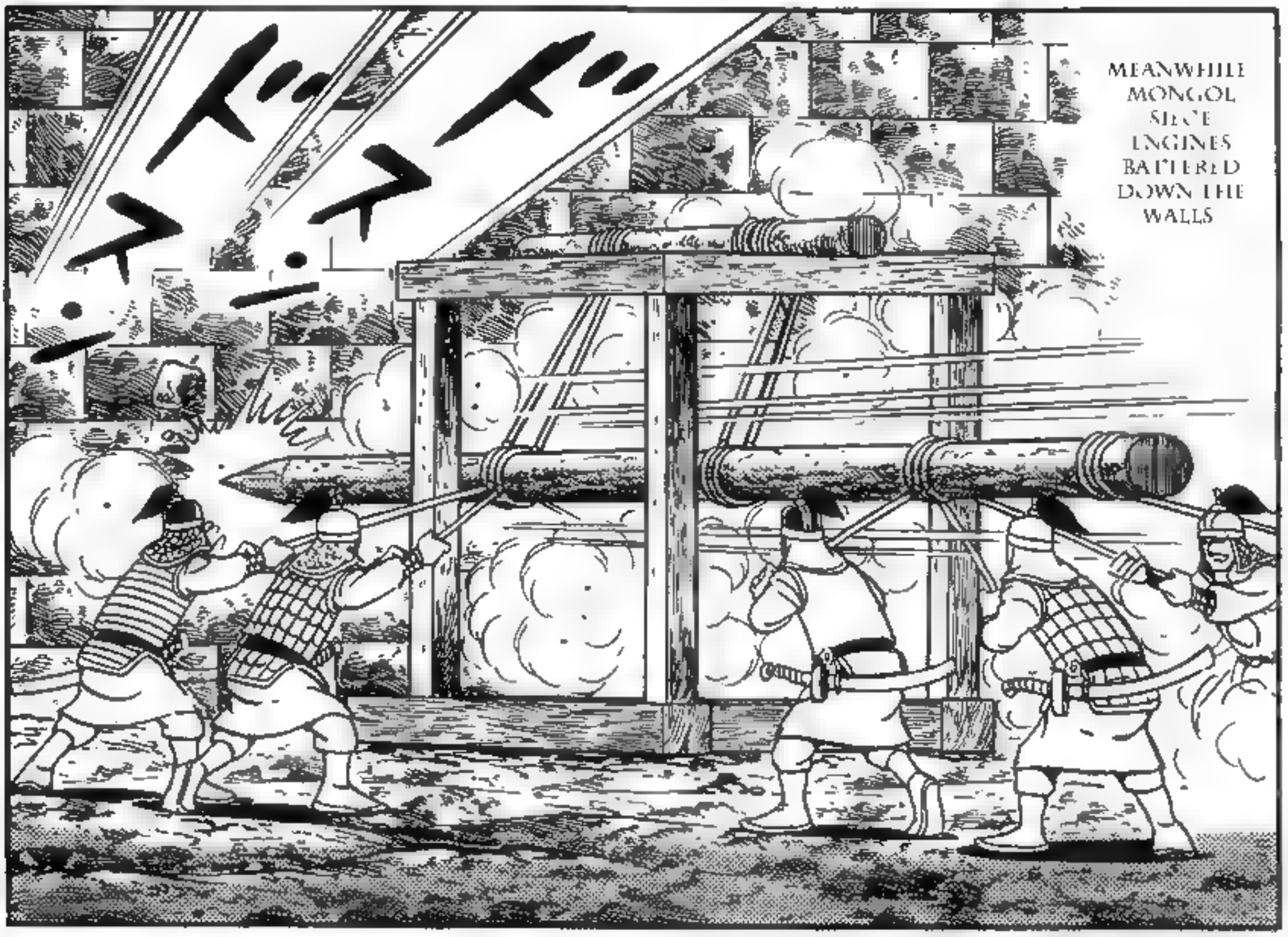

THEY RAN ALONG THE RAMPARTS,

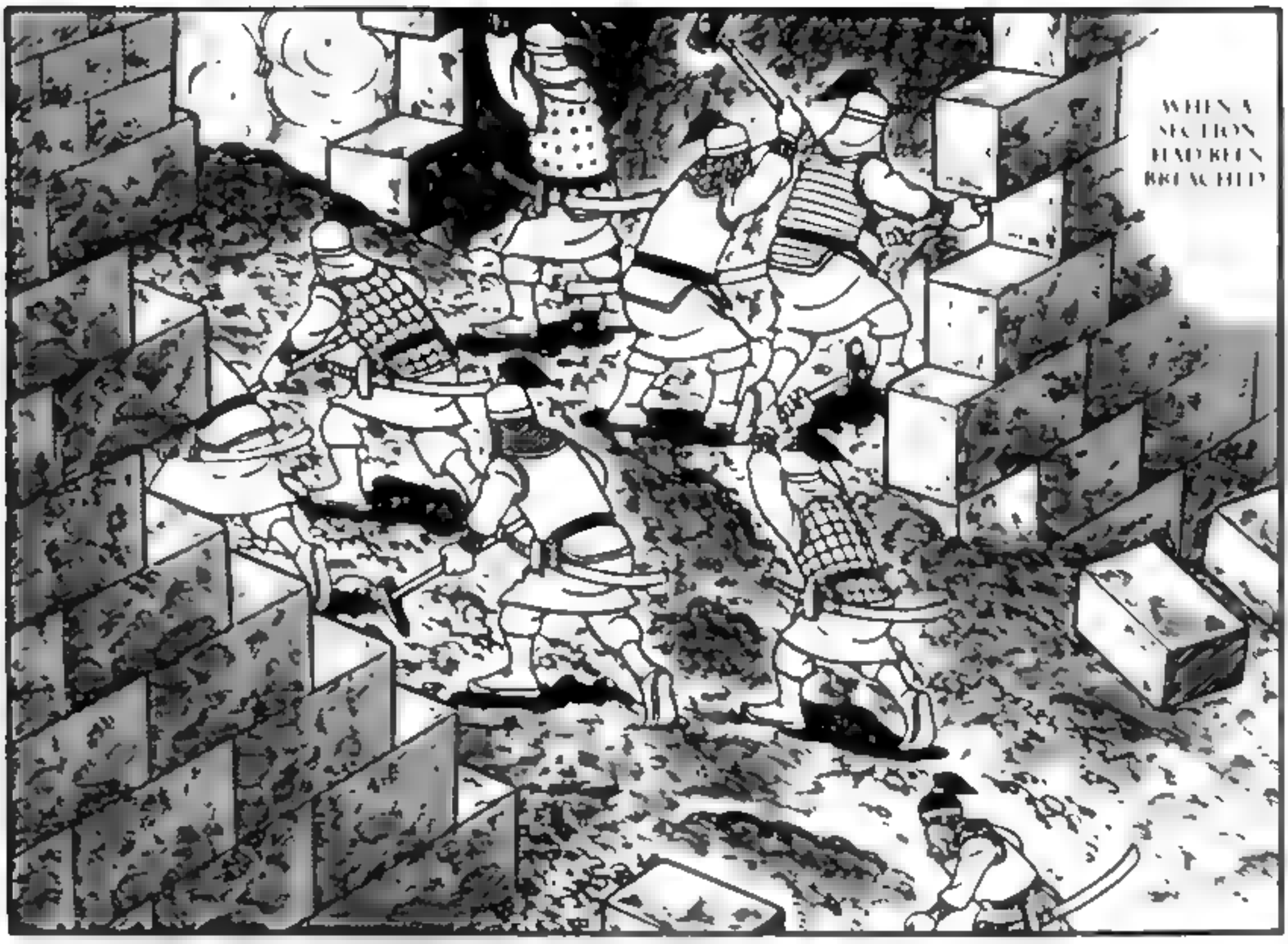

AND CLEARED THE GARRISON FORCES,

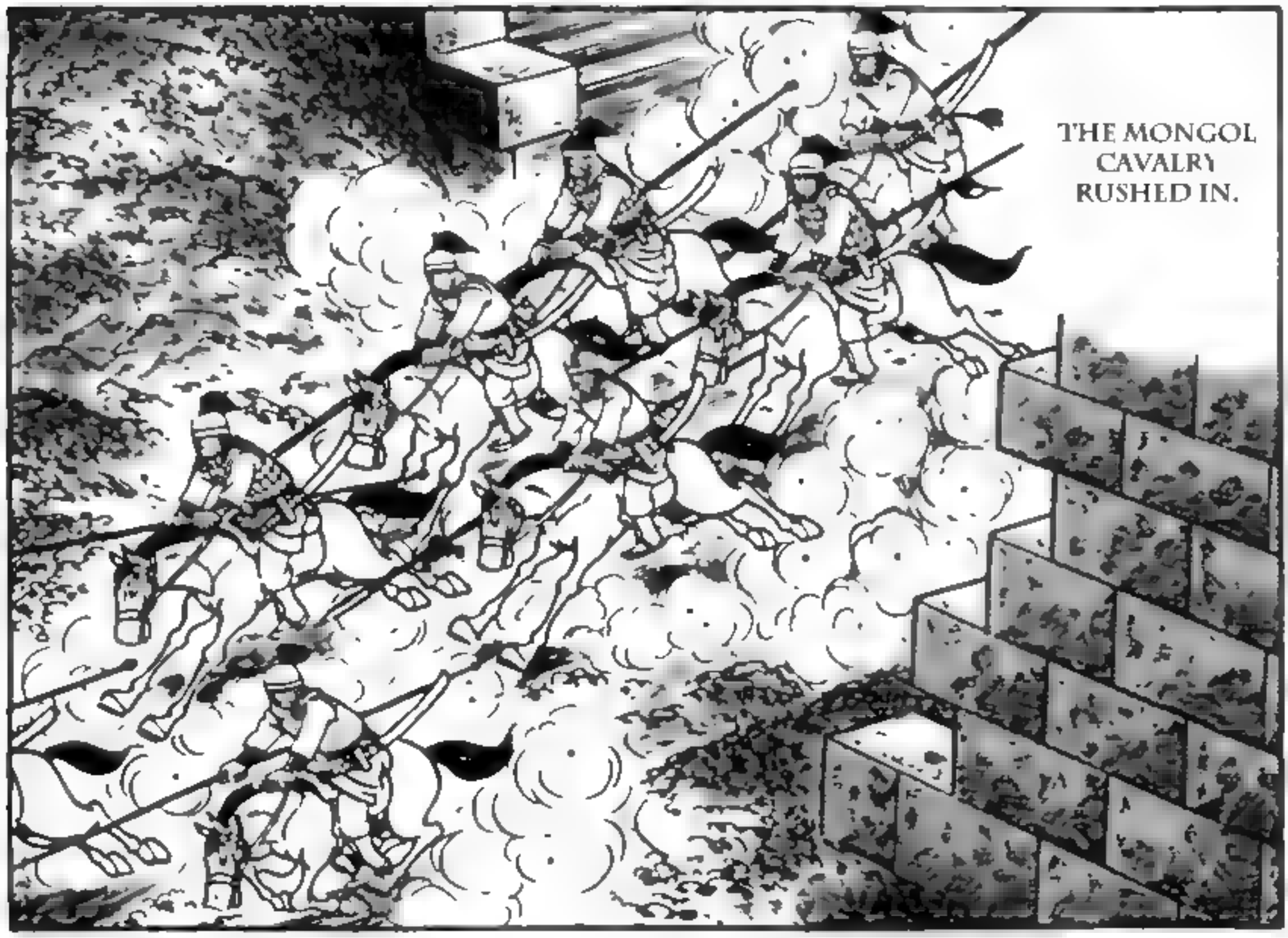
THEY CHARGED THE DEFENDERS STILL HOLDING OUT


ALLOWING MORE AND MORE MONGOLS TO SCALE THE WALLS



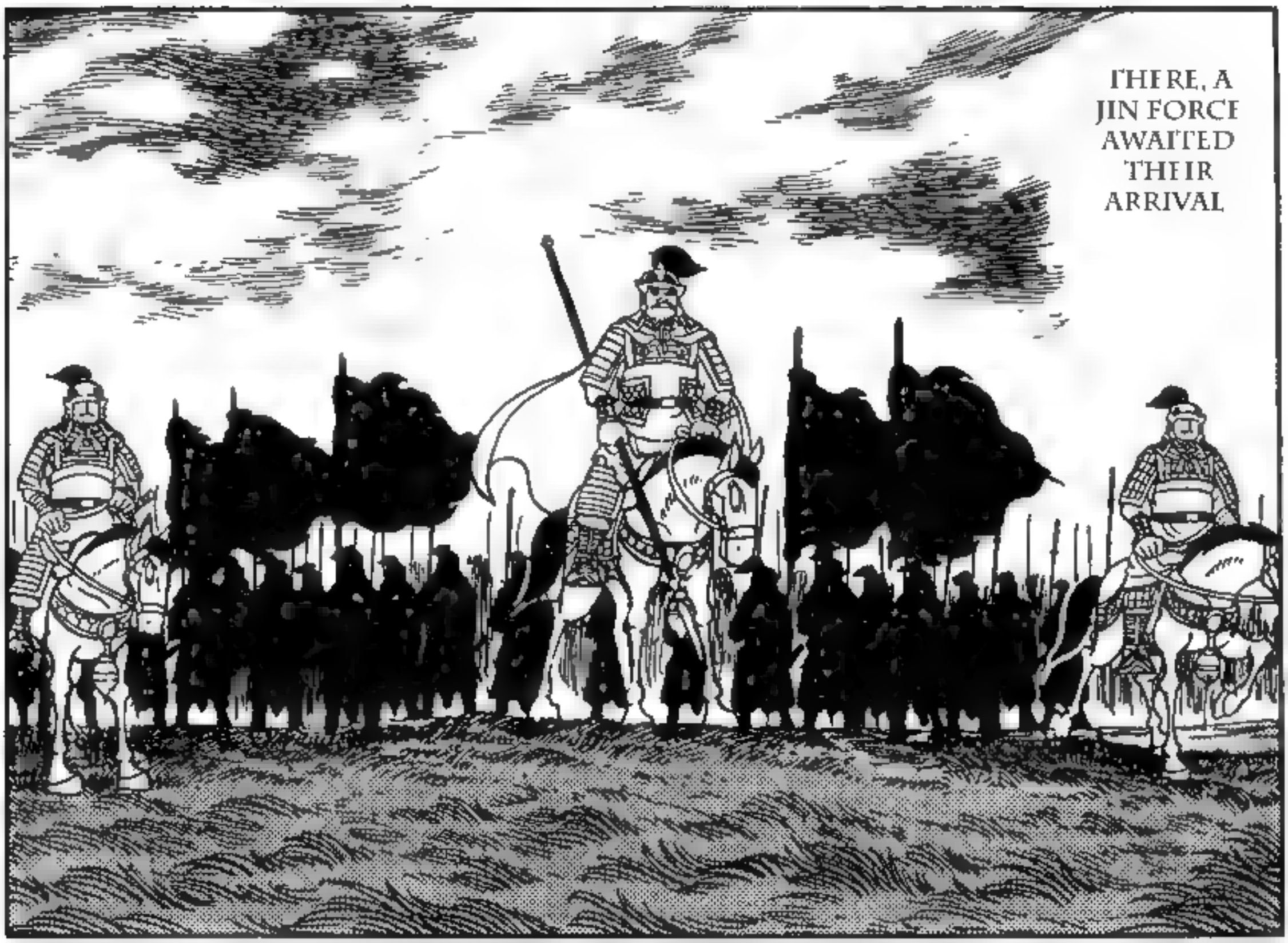

MEANWHILE MONGOL SIEGE ENGINES BATTERED DOWN THE WALLS

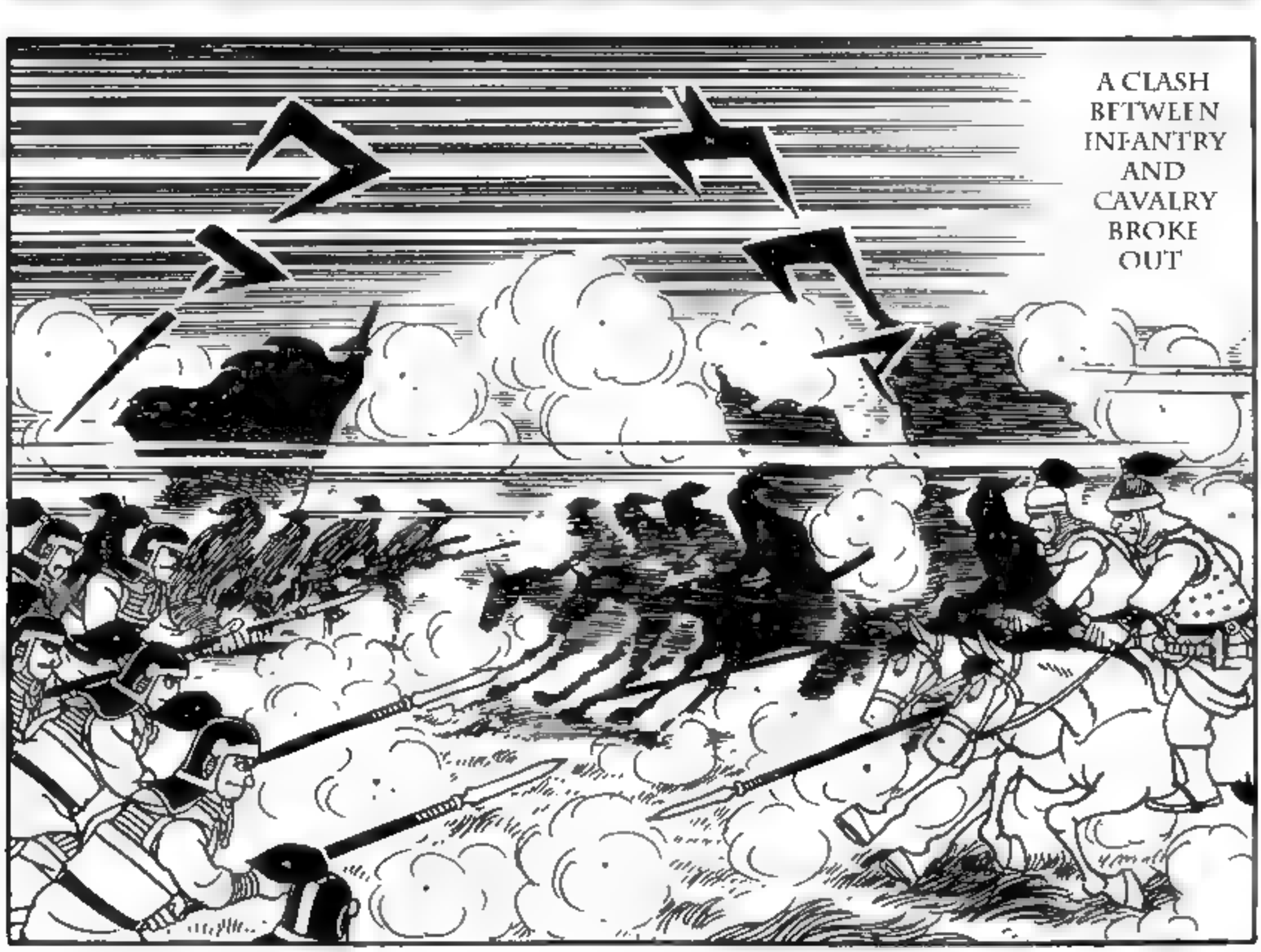

WHEN A
SECTION
HAD BEEN
BREACHED


THE MONGOL
CAVALRY
RUSHED IN.

STILL, THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP ON OUR GRAND OBJECTIVE.
SURELY IT MUST BE THE FIRST TIME SUCH GREAT WALLS HAVE EVER BEEN BREACHED, CHINGGIS KHAN.

117 *FUZHOU OF ZHANGBEI NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE MORE FAMOUS FUZHOU IN SOUTHERN CHINA


THERE, A JIN FORCE AWAITED THEIR ARRIVAL


A CLASH BETWEEN INFANTRY AND CAVALRY BROKE OUT

BUT THE INFANTRY COULD NOT MUSTER AN ANSWER AGAINST THE MONGOLS HARASSING THEM WITH A STORM OF ARROWS AT ONE MINUTE, AND A SWIFT CAVALRY CHARGE WITH LONG LANCES AT THE NEXT MINUTE.

THE JIN FORCE WAS THOROUGHLY BEATEN.

CHINGGIS KHAN TRIUMPHANTLY MARCHED IN FUZHOU AND MADE IT HIS TEMPORARY BASE OF OPERATIONS.

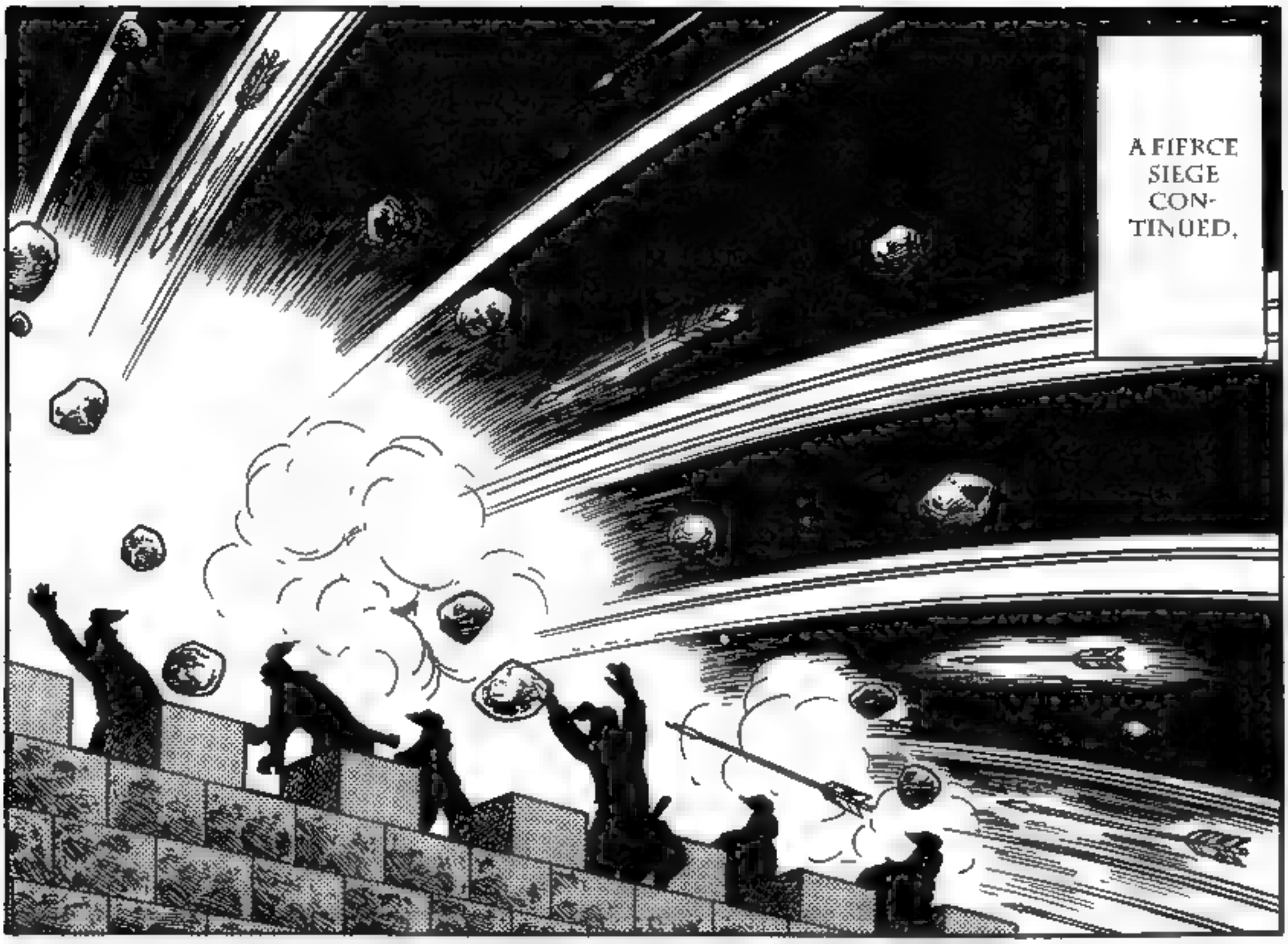
MEANWHILE, THE ARMY OF THE LEFT HAD SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN CHANGZHOU AND HUANZHOU

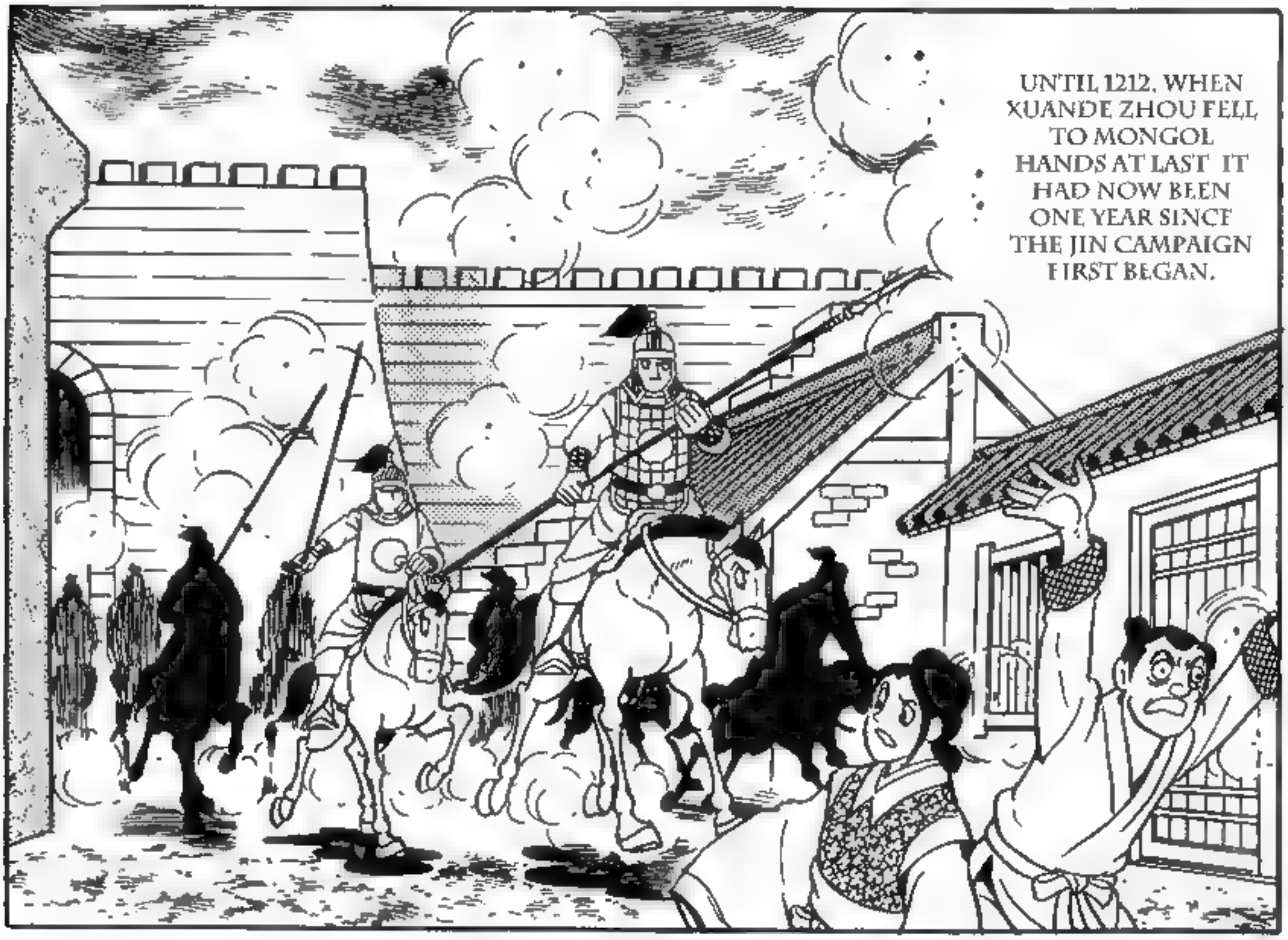
NOT TO BE OUTDONE, THE ARMY OF THE RIGHT ALSO SUCCEEDED IN ITS OBJECTIVE BY CAPTURING KEY FORTS ALONG JIN'S NORTHERN WALLS

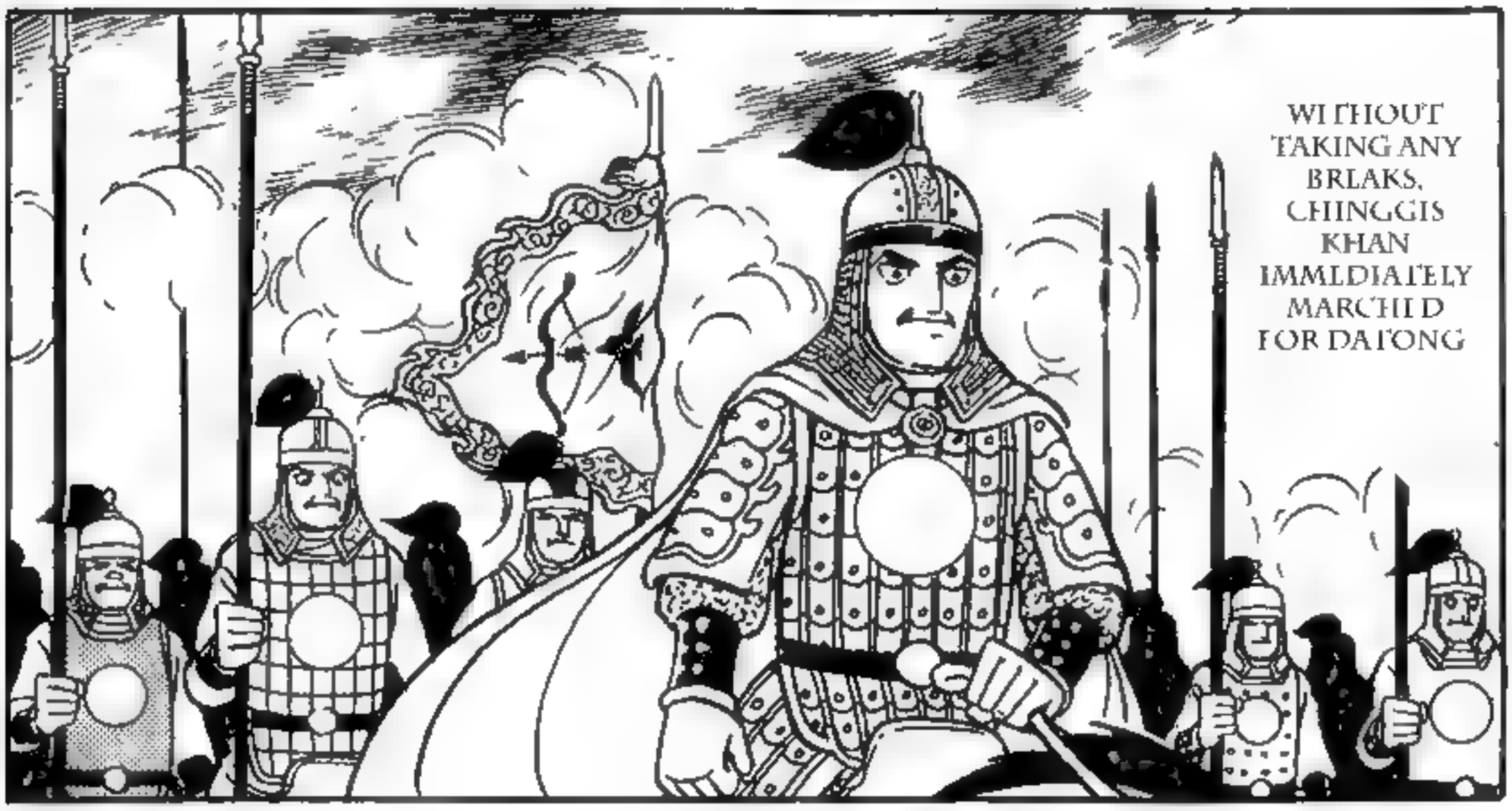
CHINGGIS KHAN AND HIS ARMY NOW MARCHED FOR XUANDE ZHOU.

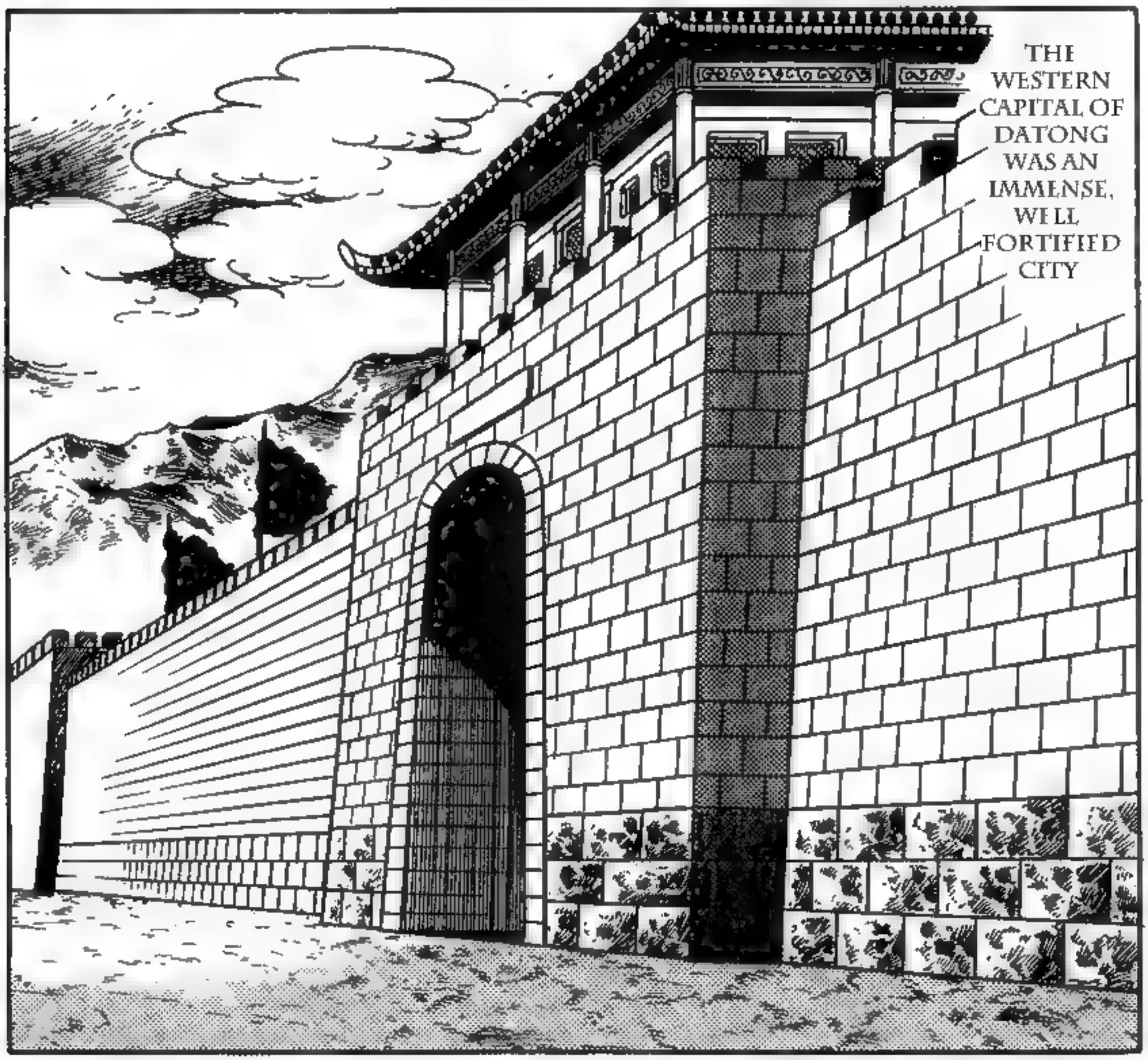
XUANDE ZHOU WAS A KEY CITY WHICH, IF CONQUERED, WOULD OPEN THE PATHS TO JIN'S WESTERN CAPITAL DATONG AND MAIN CAPITAL ZHONGDU (MODERN-DAY BEIJING).

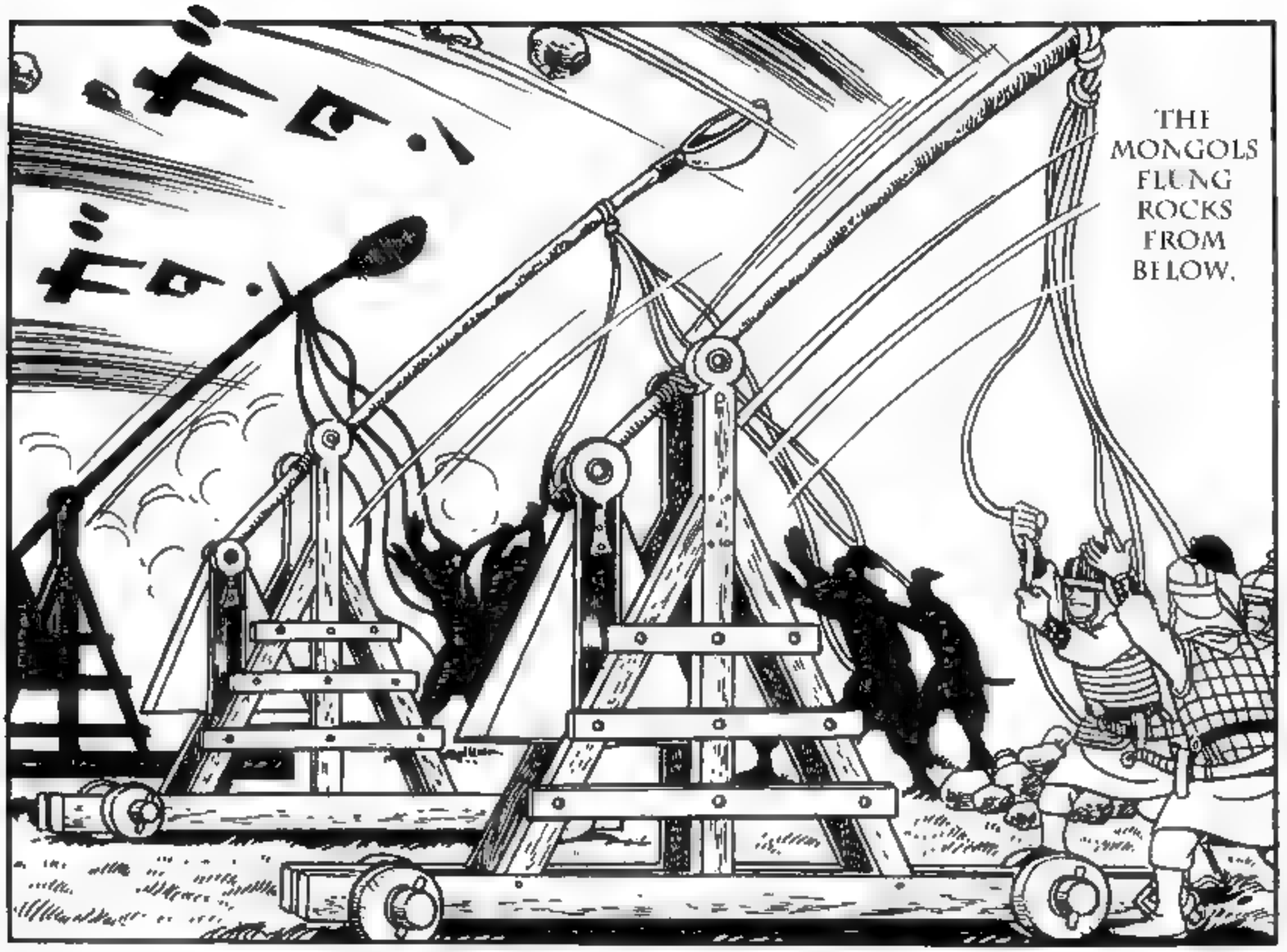
THE JIN GARRISON DESPERATELY TRIED TO DEFEND THE CITY.

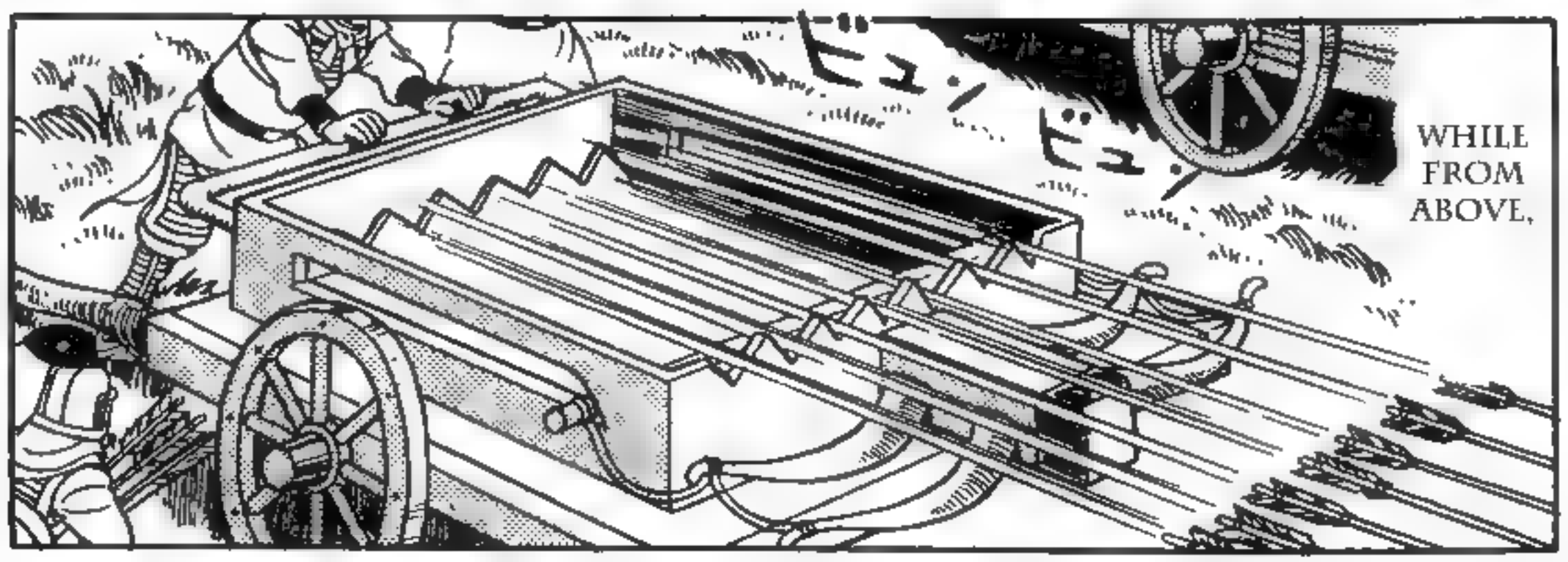

A FIERCE SIEGE CON-TINUED,

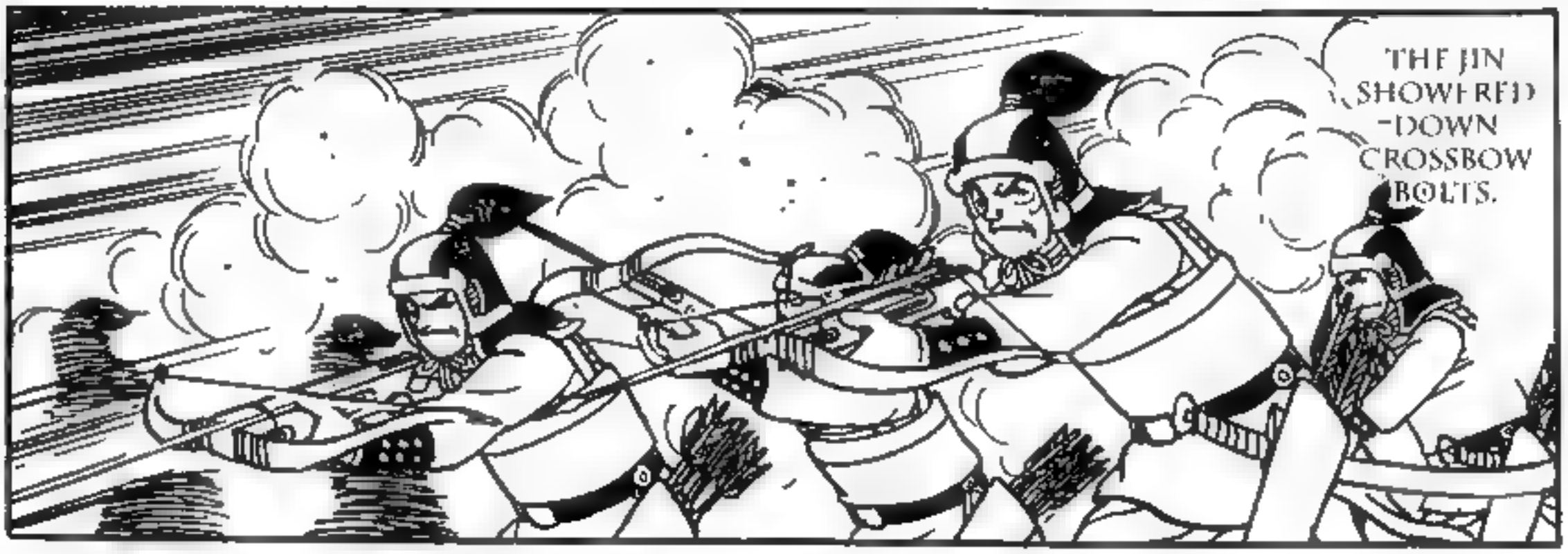

UNTIL 1212, WHEN XUANDE ZHOU FELL TO MONGOL HANDS AT LAST IT HAD NOW BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE THE JIN CAMPAIGN FIRST BEGAN.


WITHOUT TAKING ANY BREAKS, CHINGGIS KHAN IMMEDIATELY MARCHED FOR DATONG


THE WESTERN CAPITAL OF DATONG WAS AN IMMENSE, WELL FORTIFIED CITY


THE MONGOLS FLUNG ROCKS FROM BELOW,


WHILE FROM ABOVE,


THE JIN SHOWERED DOWN CROSSBOW BOLTS.

CASUALTIES ROSE HIGHER AND HIGHER FOR BOTH SIDES AS ASSAULTS ON THE CITY WALLS WERE CARRIED OUT IN DAY AND NIGHT

WE MUST TAKE THIS CITY, NO MATTER HOW MANY MONTHS IT TAKES...

BUT IF WE CANNOT TAKE DATONG, THEN THERE IS NO HOPE OF EVER TAKING ZHONGDU, JIN'S MAIN CAPITAL...

YES, DATONG LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION AS THE WESTERN CAPITAL.

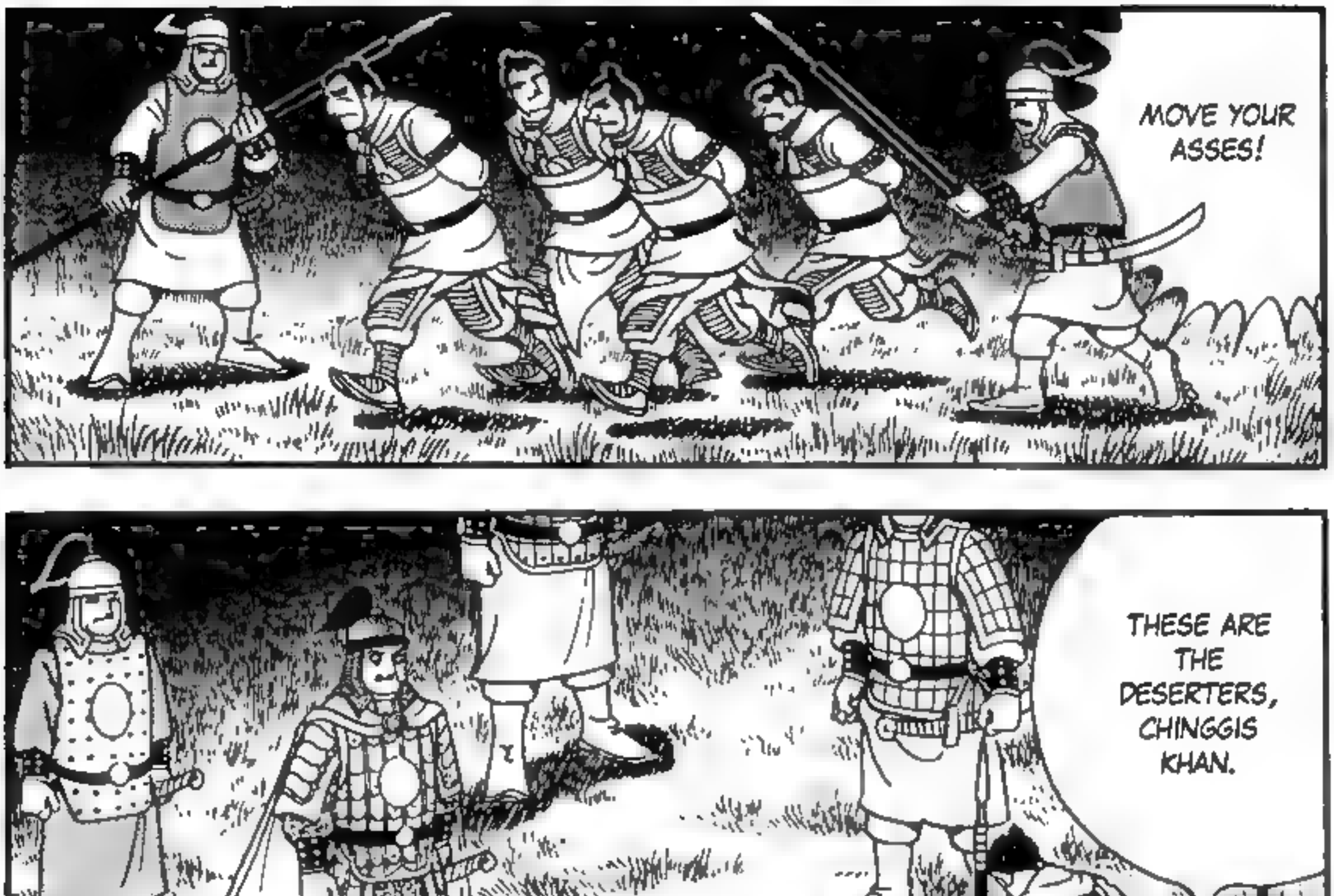
THIS IS PROVING QUITE TOUGH...

DESERTERS!?

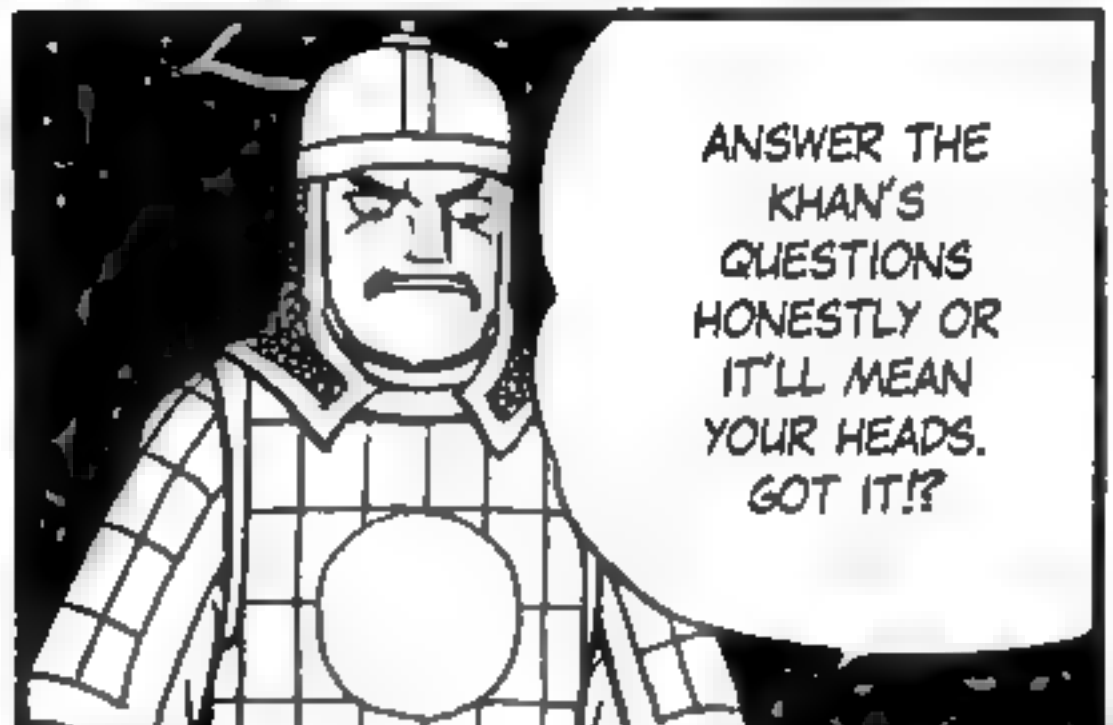
WE HAVE CAUGHT SEVERAL JIN SOLDIERS TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE CITY, CHINGGIS KHAN.

YES, KHAN.

BRING THEM TO ME. I WISH TO QUESTION THEM ON THE CITY'S STATUS.


MOVE YOUR ASSES!
THESE ARE THE DESERTERS, CHINGGIS KHAN.

Y-YES, SIR...


ANSWER THE KHAN'S QUESTIONS HONESTLY OR IT'LL MEAN YOUR HEADS. GOT IT!?

WITH OUR FOOD STORES CLOSE TO RUNNING OUT, WE SAW VICTORY AS UNLIKELY...

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO DESERT THE CITY? DOES YOUR SIDE SEE NO HOPE OF WINNING ANYMORE?

YES, THE SOLDIERS ARE BARELY GETTING ONE SQUARE MEAL A DAY. UNLESS REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE SOON, WE WILL ALL EITHER STARVE TO DEATH OR BE SLAUGHTERED AT YOUR HANDS.

AH, SO THE GARRISON IS ALMOST OUT OF FOOD...?

YES, KHAN.

LET THESE MEN GO.

I SEE...

BEAT IT! GO ANYWHERE YOU WANT, BUT NOT HERE!

IT'S NOW ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE CITY FALLS.

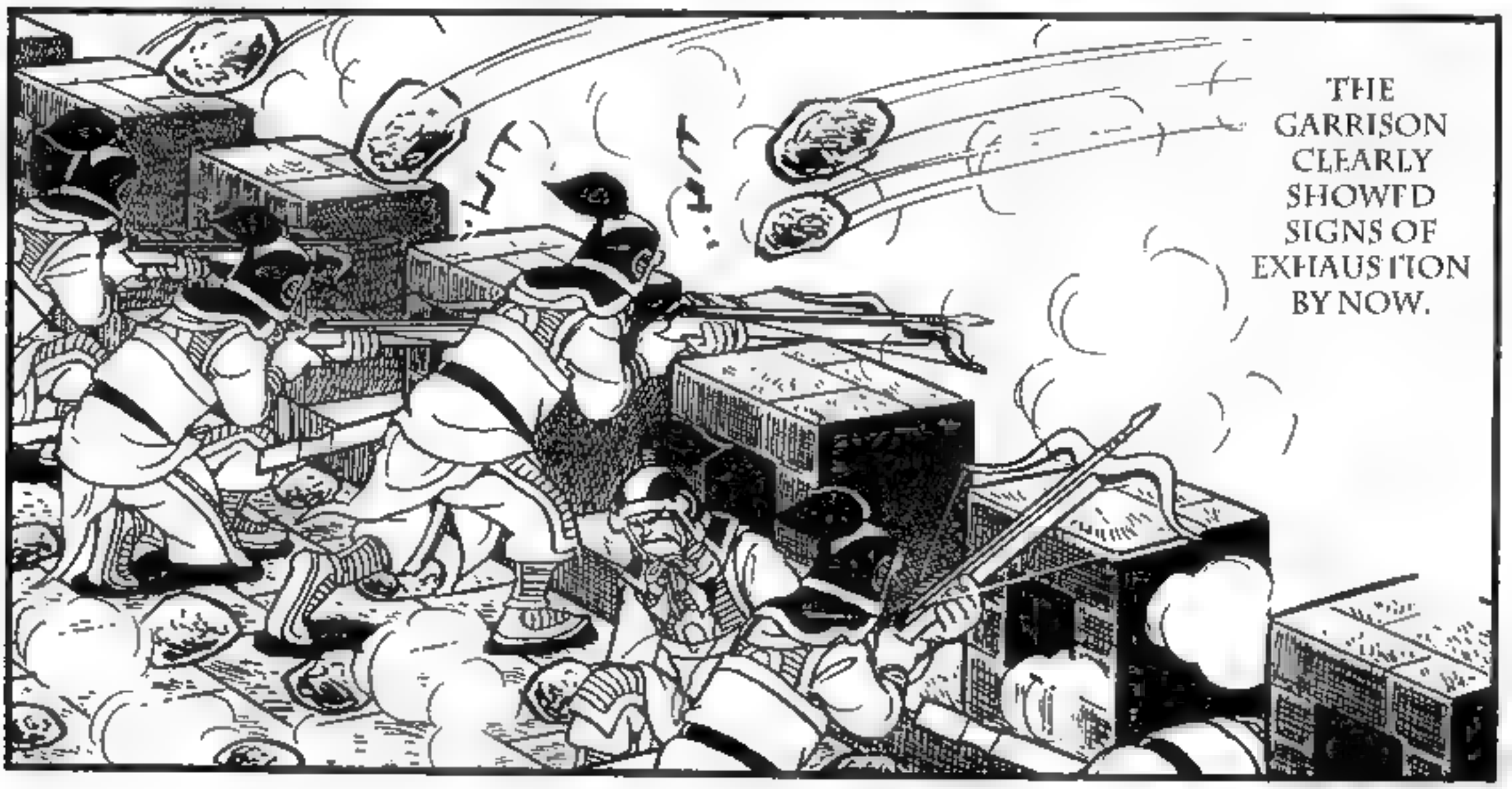
INDEED.

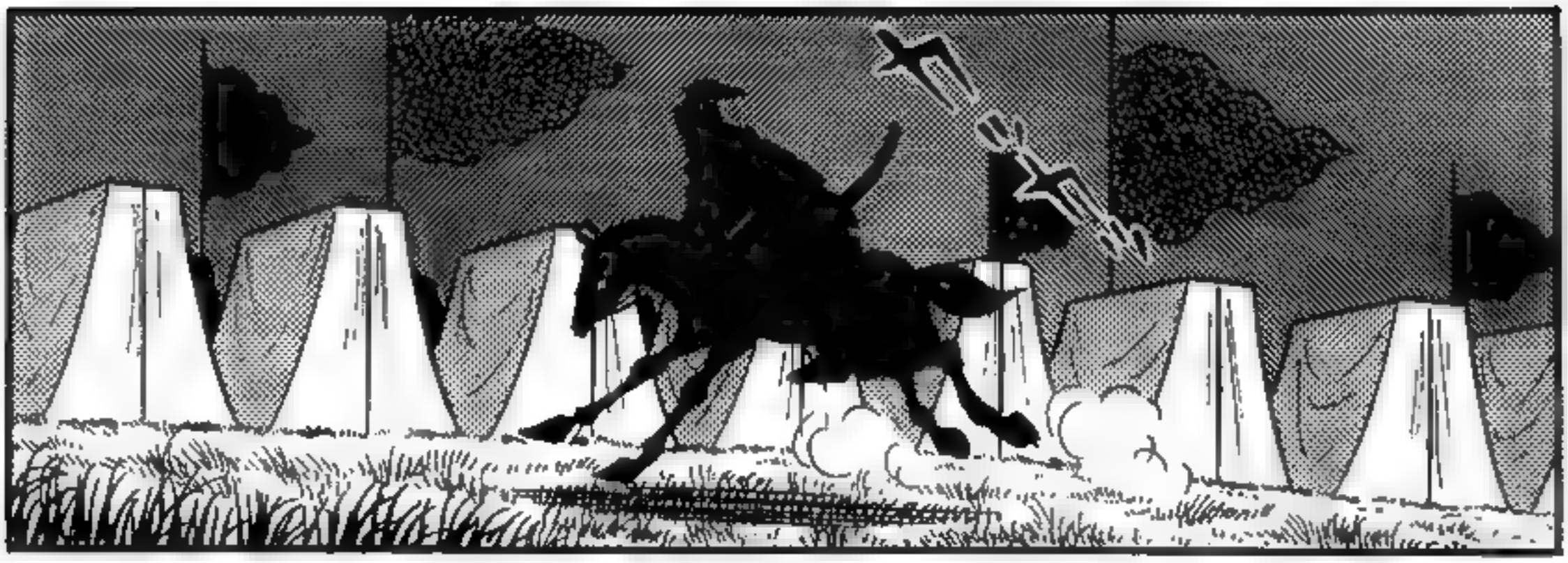
IF THEY'RE ALMOST OUT OF FOOD, THEIR NUMBER OF DESERTERS SHOULD INCREASE BY DAY.

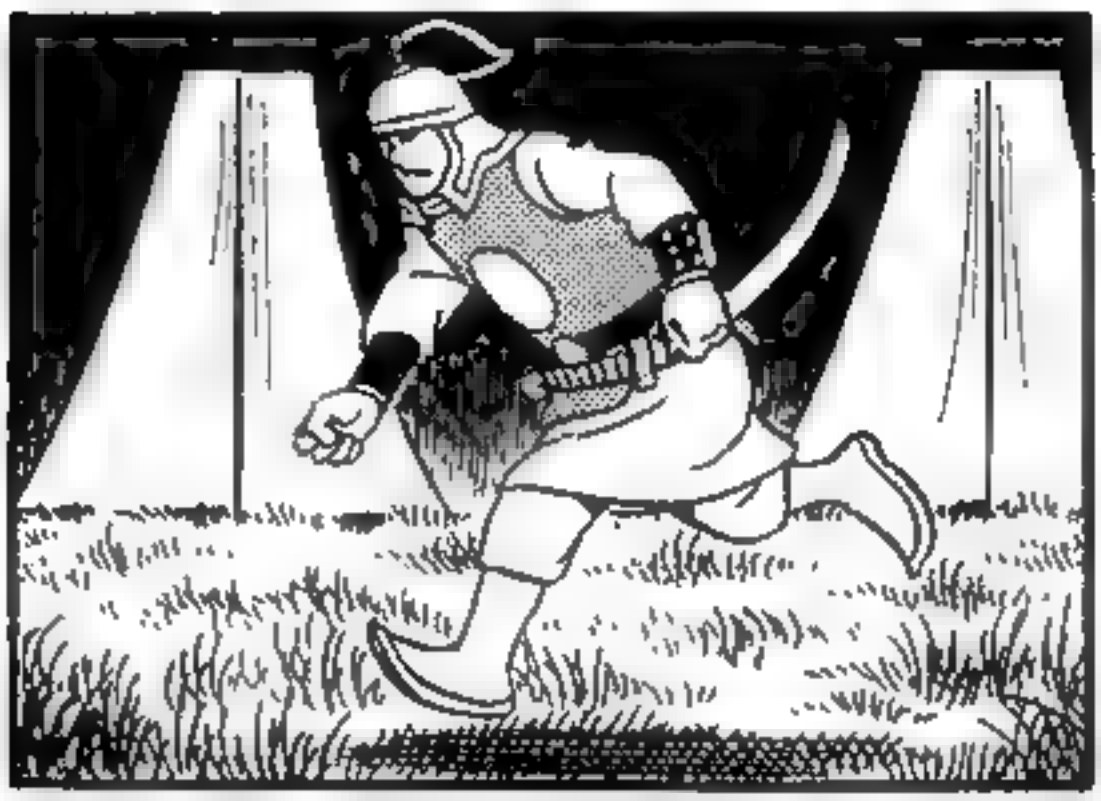
YES.

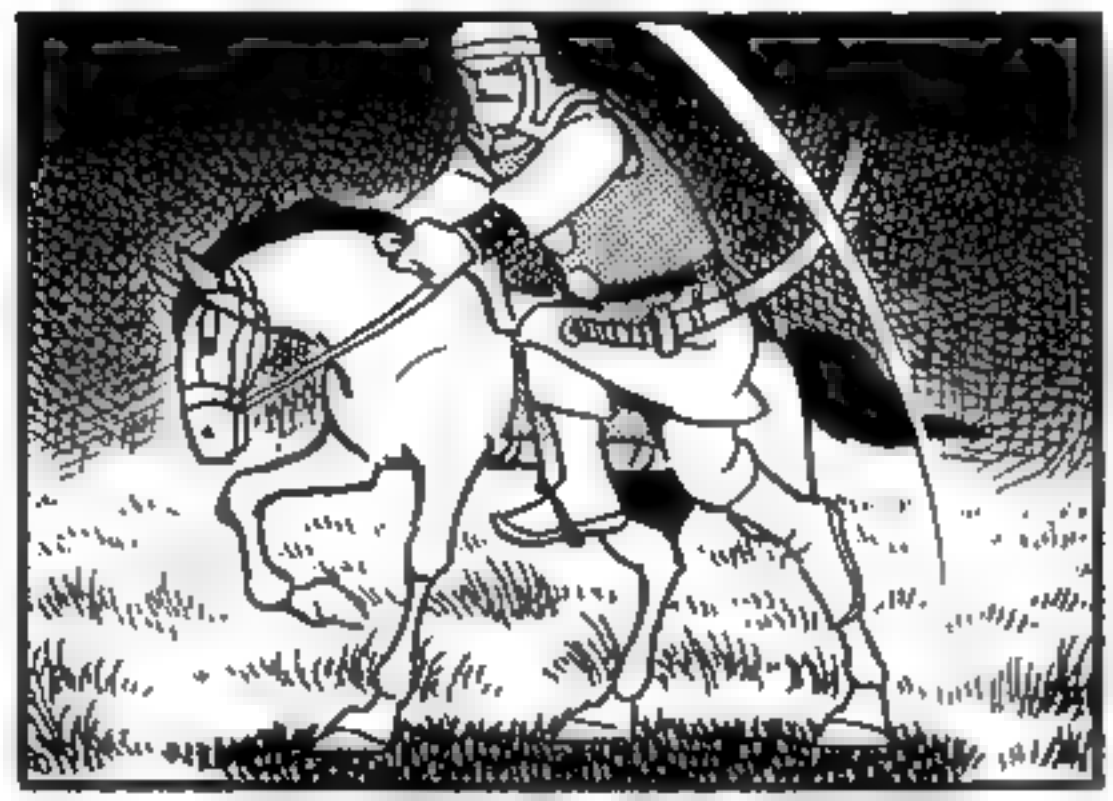
LOOSEN THE ENCIRCLEMENT SO THAT DESERTERS WILL HAVE AN EASIER TIME ESCAPING.

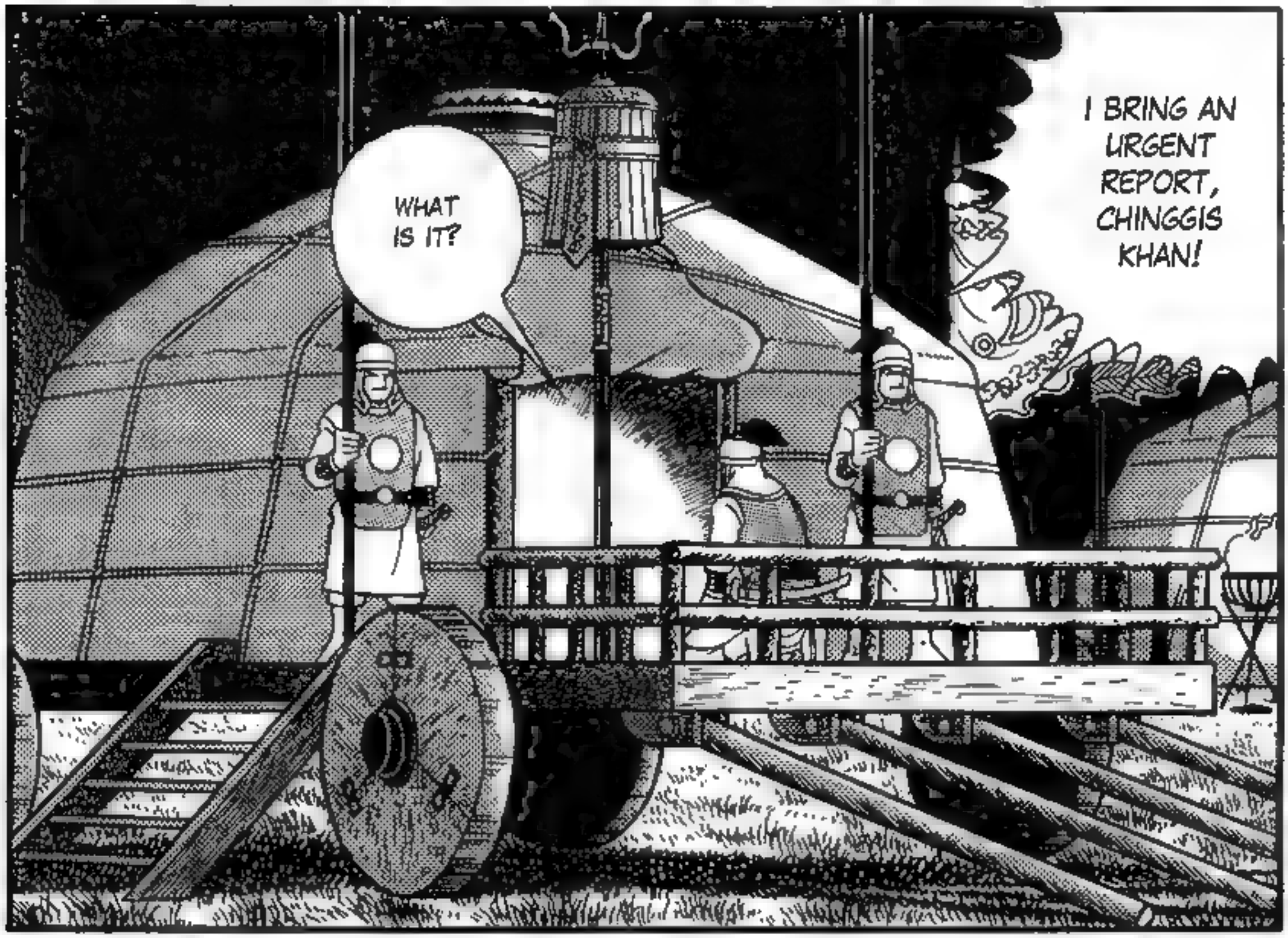
CHINGGIS KHAN KEPT UP THE FIERCE ATTACKS IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING

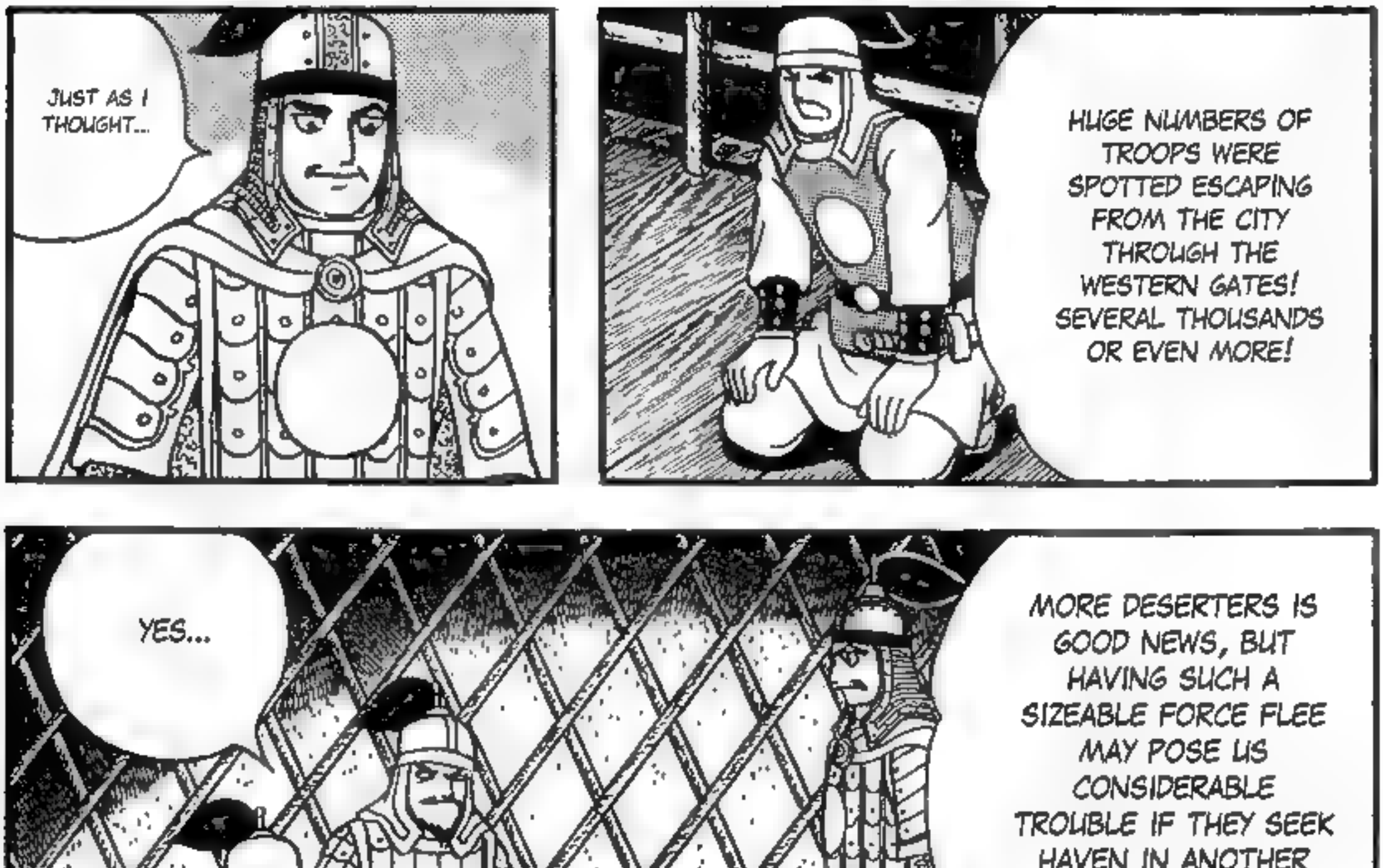

THE GARRISON CLEARLY SHOWED SIGNS OF EXHAUSTION BY NOW.



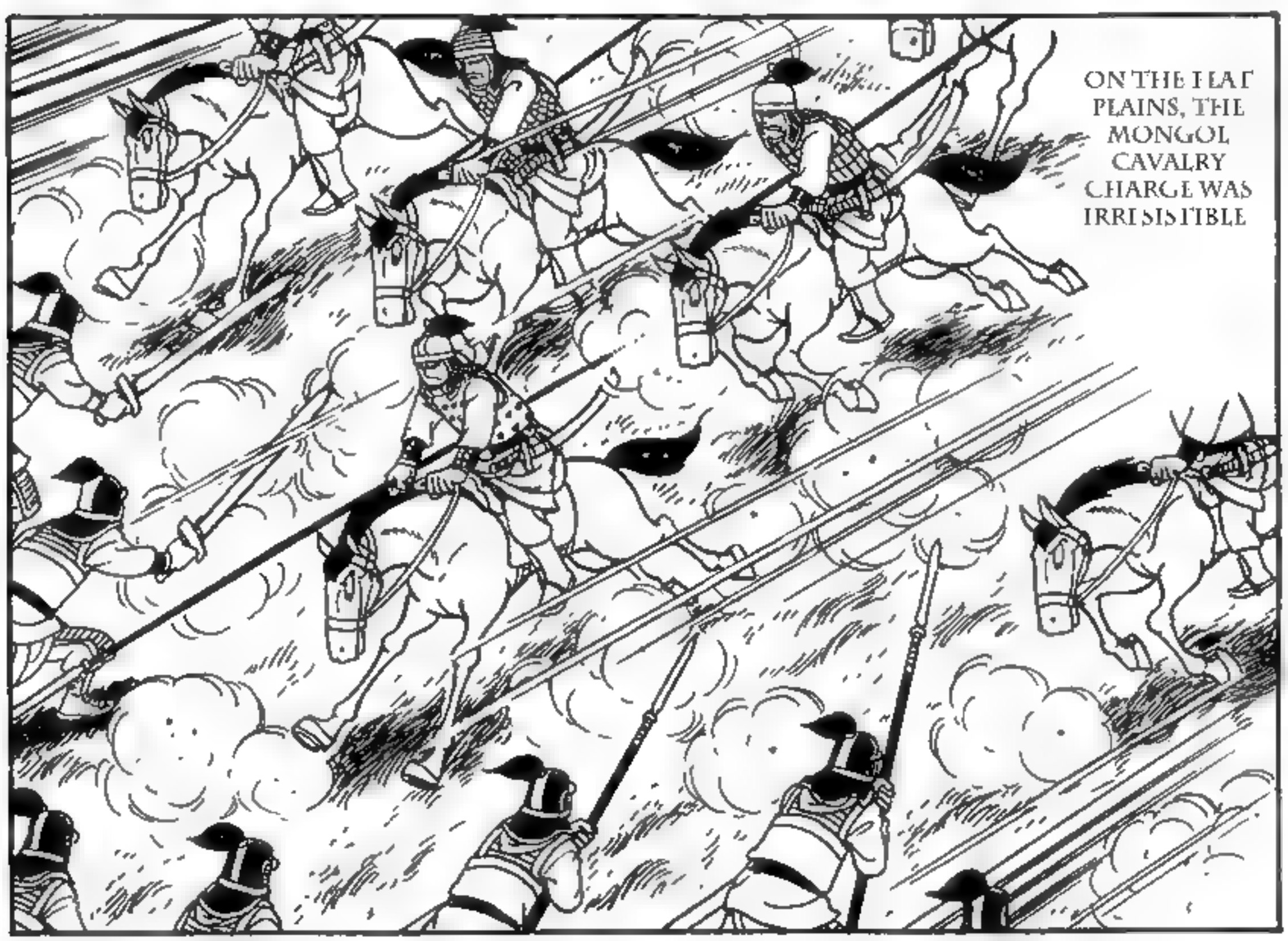




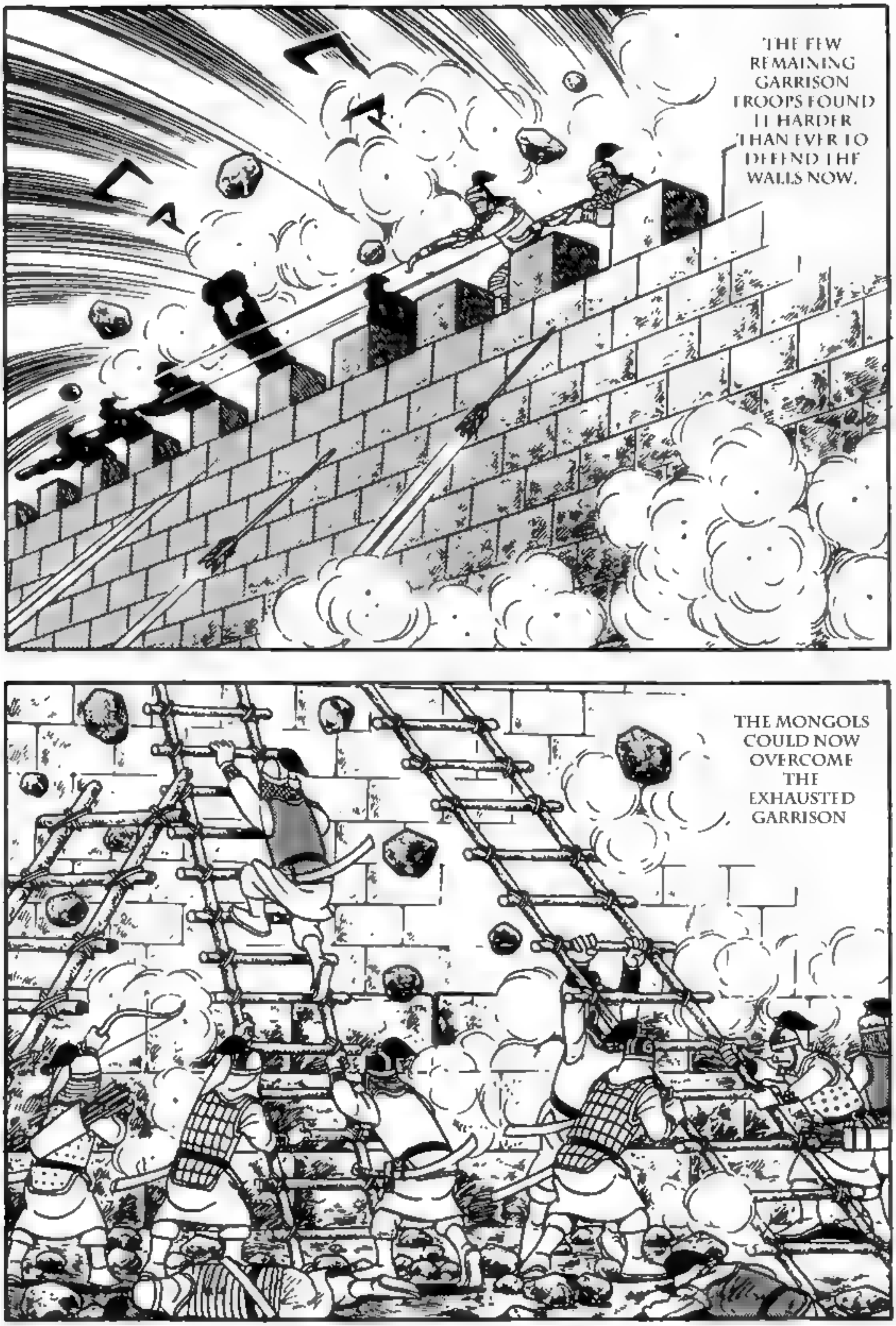

WHAT IS IT?
I BRING AN URGENT REPORT, CHINGGIS KHAN!

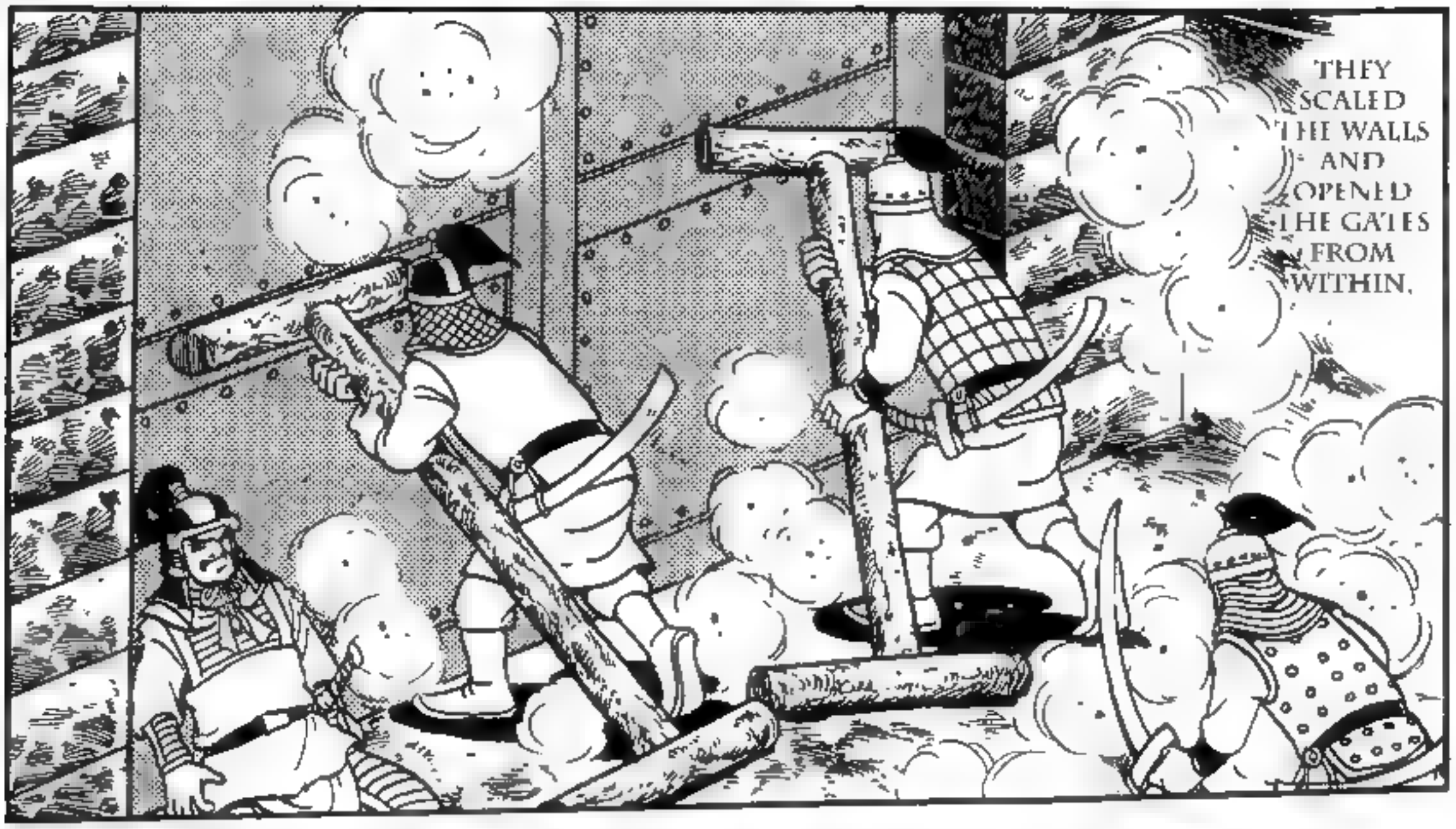

JUST AS I THOUGHT...
HUGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS WERE SPOTTED ESCAPING FROM THE CITY THROUGH THE WESTERN GATES! SEVERAL THOUSANDS OR EVEN MORE!
YES...
MORE DESERTERS IS GOOD NEWS, BUT HAVING SUCH A SIZEABLE FORCE FLEE MAY POSE US CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE IF THEY SEEK HAVEN IN ANOTHER CITY ON OUR PATH. CHASE THEM DOWN AT ONCE.
A CONTINGENT OF MONGOL CAVALRY WERE ORDERED TO PURSUE THE DESERTERS.

THE DESERTERS FLEEING BY FOOT HAD NO HOPE OF OUTRUNNING THE MONGOL CAVALRY


ON THE FLAT PLAINS, THE MONGOL CAVALRY CHARGE WAS IRRESISTIBLE

THE DESERTERS WERE HUNTED DOWN LIKE WILD GAME


THE FEW REMAINING GARRISON TROOPS FOUND IT HARDER THAN EVER TO DEFEND THE WALLS NOW.
THE MONGOLS COULD NOW OVERCOME THE EXHAUSTED GARRISON

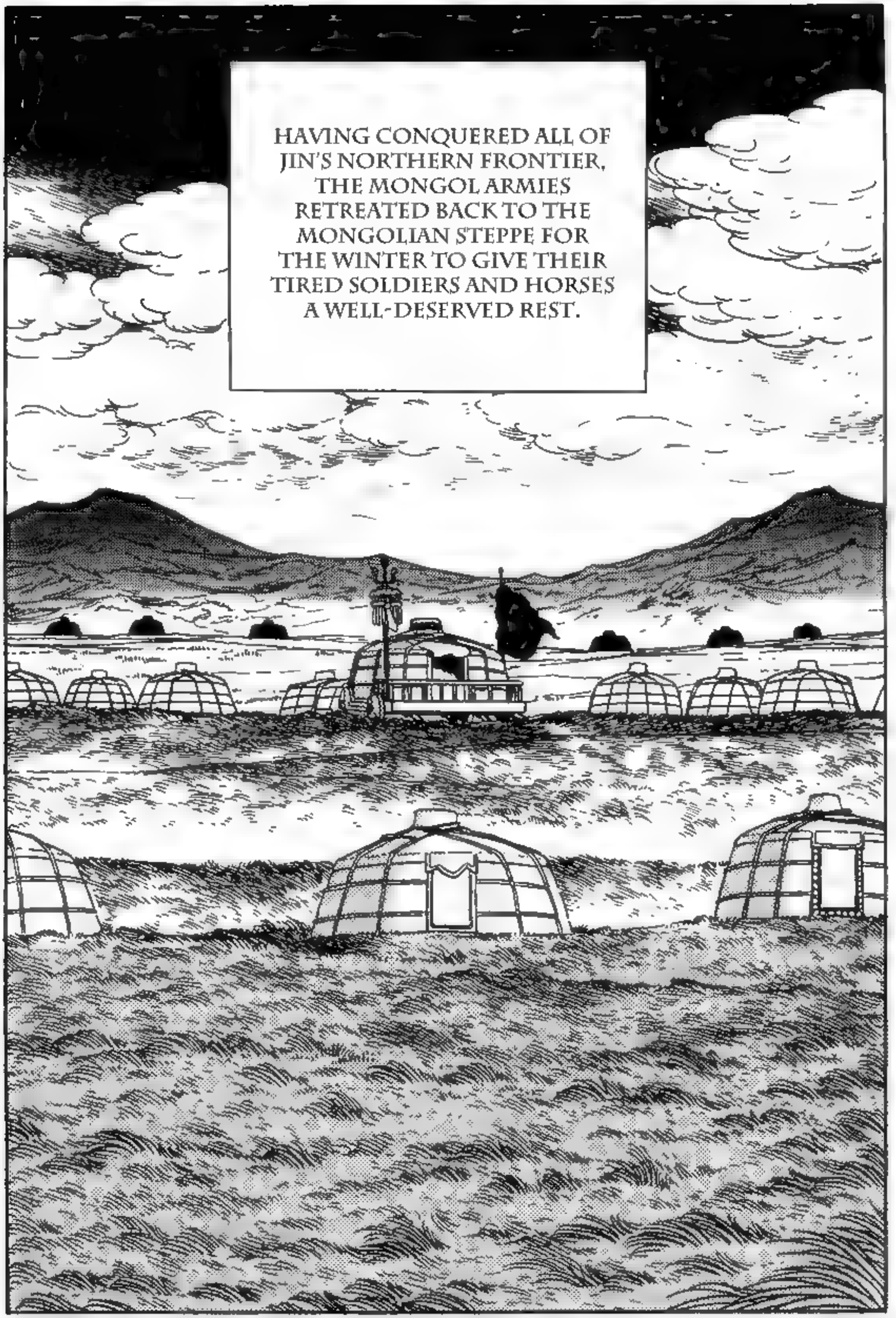

THEY SCALED THE WALLS AND OPENED THE GATES FROM WITHIN.

ALLOWING THE MONGOL ARMY OUTSIDE TO FINALLY STORM INSIDE

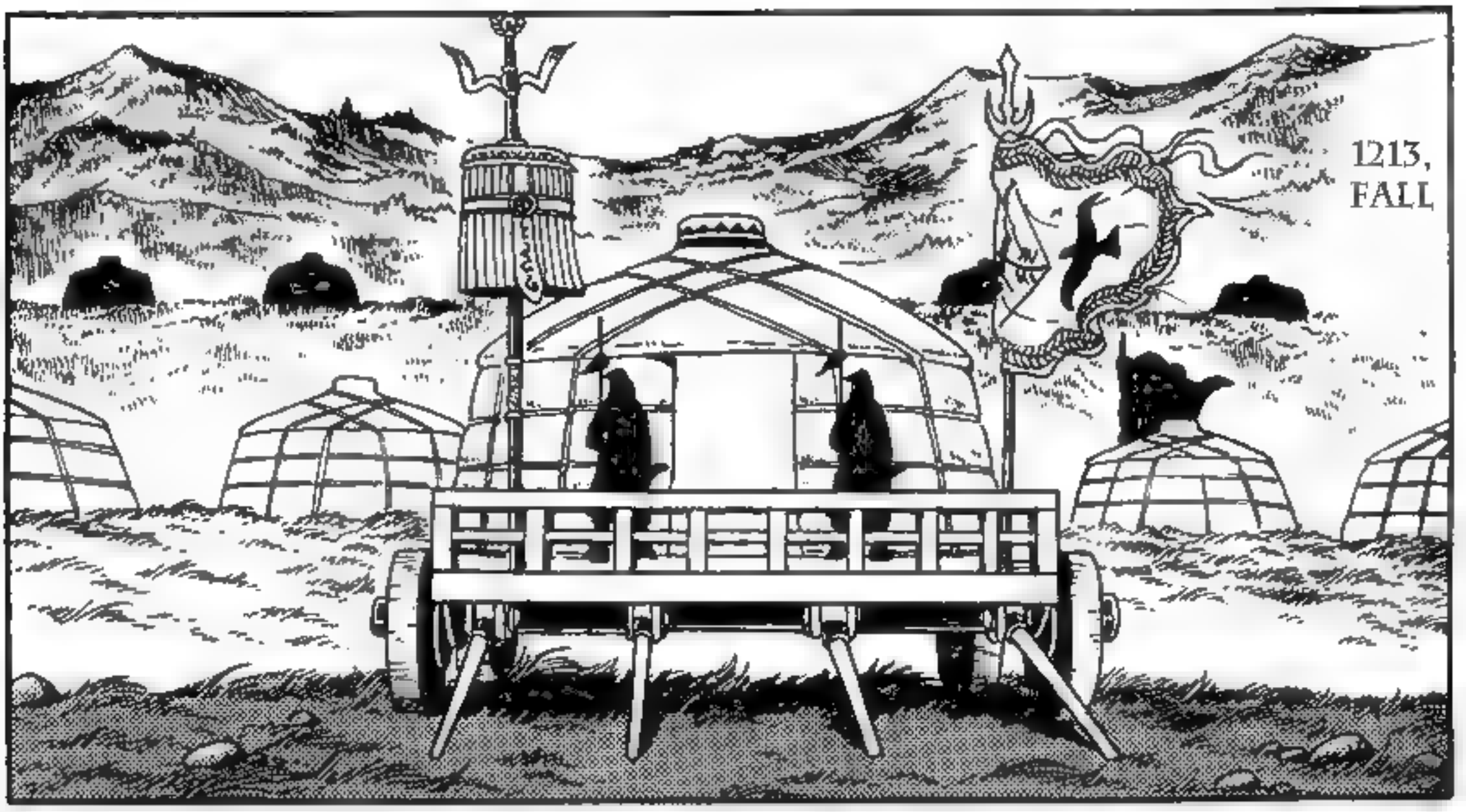
CHINGGIS KHAN AT LAST CAPTURED DATONG, THE WESTERN CAPITAL OF JIN. MEANWHILE, DONGSHING-ZHOU, WUZHOU, SHUOZHOU, NINGZHOU, AND COUNTLESS MORE PREFECTURES AND CITIES IN HEBEI AND SHANXI HAD BEEN LOOTED AND RAZED BY THE MONGOL ARMIES OF THE LEFT AND RIGHT.

AFTER SACKING THE CITY, DATONG WAS ABANDONED. FOR THE PASTORAL NOMADS, FARMLAND AND BUILDINGS HELD NO REAL VALUE TO THEM. FAR MORE IMPORTANT WAS TAKING ZHONGDU AND DELIVER A CRITICAL BLOW TO THE JIN.

ALL THE GOLD, SILVER, SILK, AND OTHER PRECIOUS ITEMS OF DATONG WERE LOADED UP ON WAGONS AS THE ARMY CONTINUED ONWARDS.


HAVING CONQUERED ALL OF JIN'S NORTHERN FRONTIER, THE MONGOL ARMIES RETREATED BACK TO THE MONGOLIAN STEPPE FOR THE WINTER TO GIVE THEIR TIRED SOLDIERS AND HORSES A WELL-DESERVED REST.

Closing in on the Capital


1213,
FALL

NOW THAT OUR HORSES HAVE FATTENED UP, AND OUR MEN WELL RESTED, I BELIEVE IT IS TIME WE TAKE THE JIN CAPITAL.

LIKE BEFORE, WE WILL SPLIT UP INTO 3 ARMIES. MY SONS WILL BE IN THE ARMY OF THE RIGHT, WHILE MY BROTHERS IN THE ARMY OF THE LEFT.

YES?

JOCHI.

YES, KHAN.

YOU WILL LEAD THE ARMY OF THE RIGHT. FROM SHANXI IN THE WEST, RIDE EAST THROUGH HEBEI TO REACH THE CAPITAL. CONQUER ALL CITIES THAT RESIST ALONG THE WAY.

YES?

KASAR.

YES.

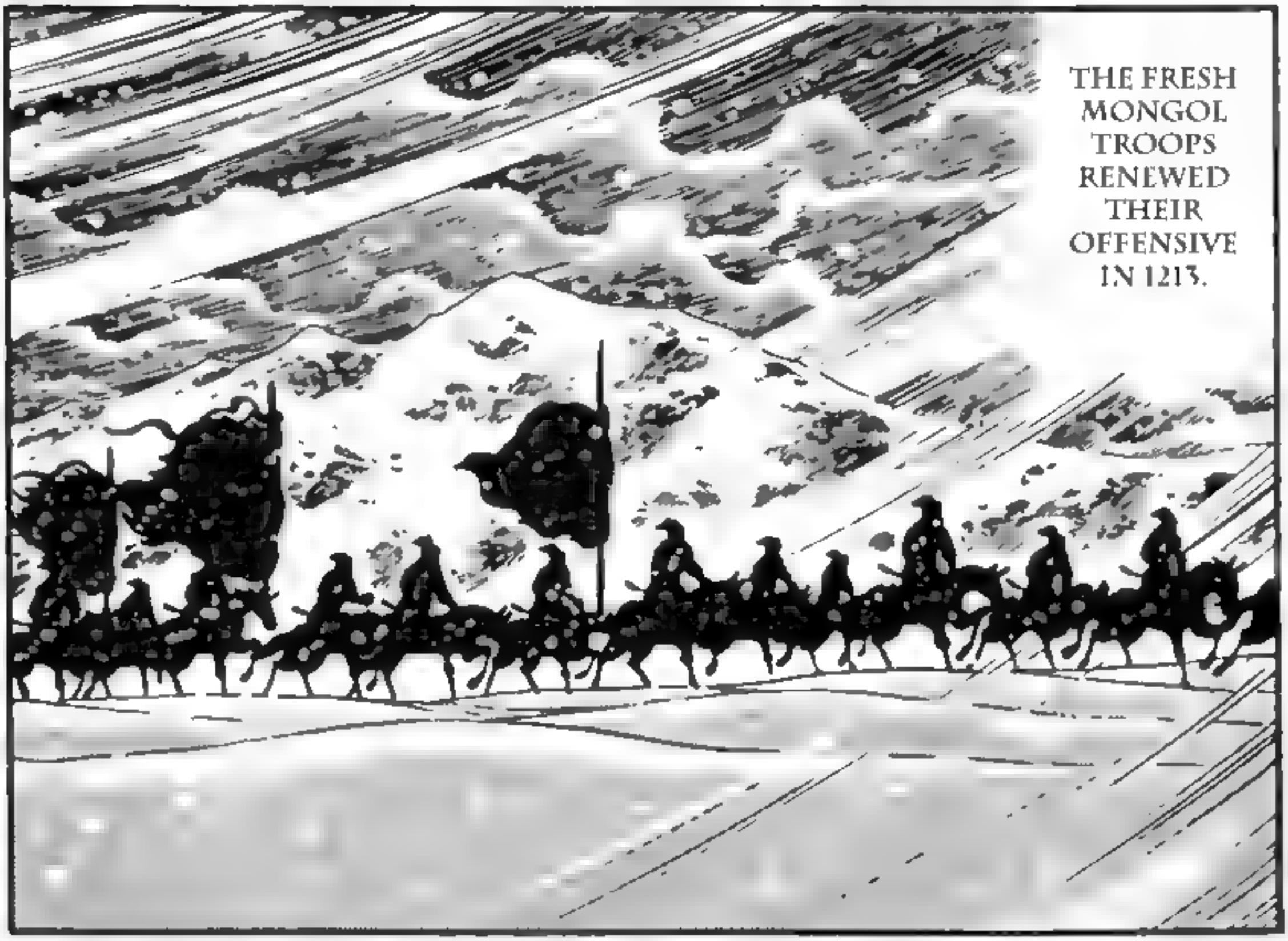
LEAD THE ARMY OF THE LEFT OVER THE NORTHERN WALLS AND SUPPRESS THE LAND AROUND THE LIAO RIVER AS YOU MAKE YOUR WAY SOUTH TO REACH THE OCEAN.

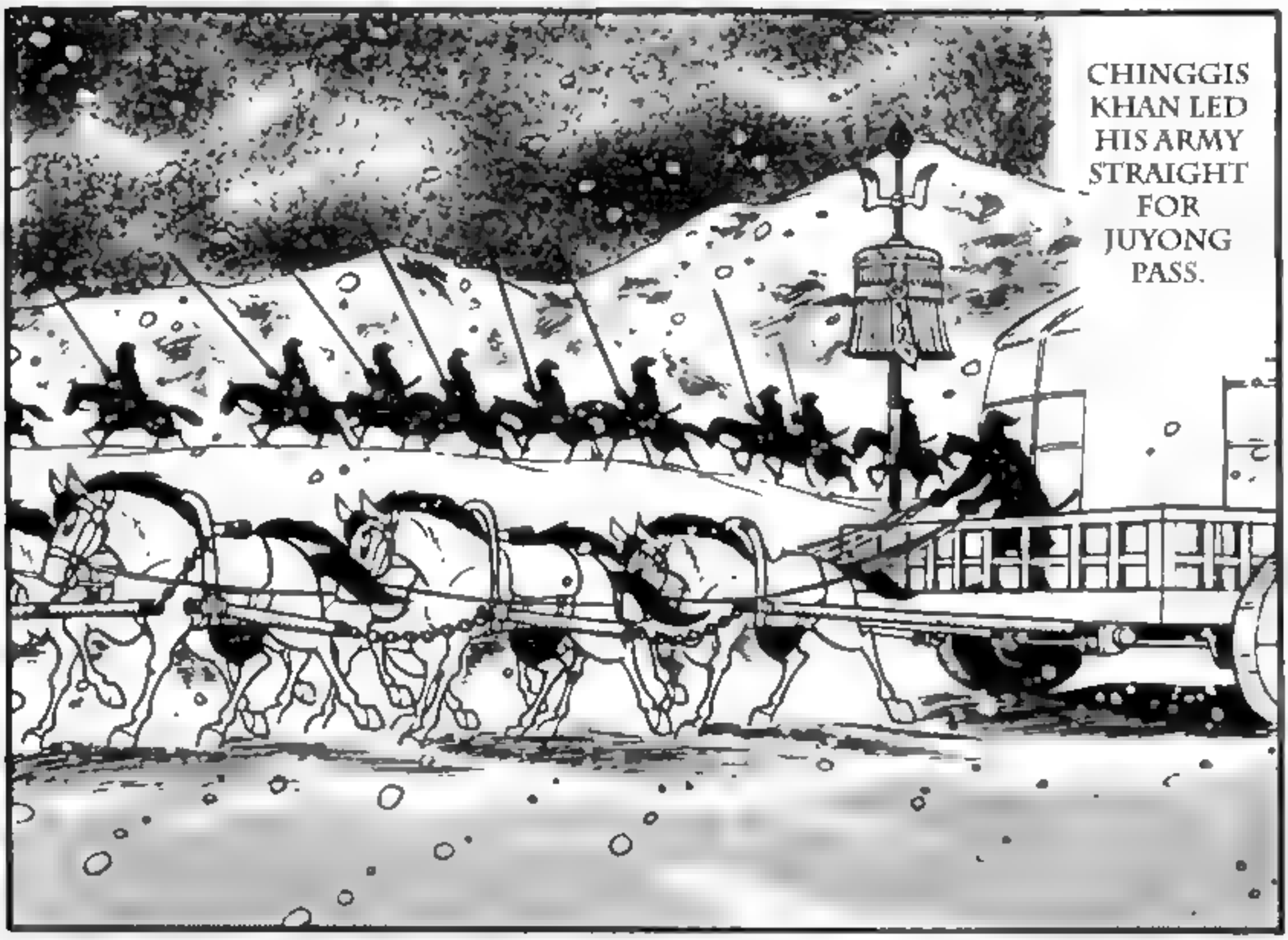
YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.

AS FOR MYSELF, I WILL TAKE THE ARMY OF THE CENTER AND CAPTURE JUYONG PASS BEFORE CLOSING IN ON THE CAPITAL.

I EXPECT NO LESS THAN TOTAL VICTORY FROM YOU ALL.

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.


THE FRESH MONGOL TROOPS RENEWED THEIR OFFENSIVE IN 1213.


CHINGGIS KHAN LED HIS ARMY STRAIGHT FOR JUYONG PASS.

THE JUYONG PASS WAS AN IMMENSE, WALLED MOUNTAIN-PASS JUST NORTH OF ZHONGDU. AT THE TIME, IT WAS WIDELY CONSIDERED IMPREGNABLE

HMM, THE TERRAIN HERE IS QUITE STEEP. NOT SURPRISING THEY CONSIDER IT IMPREGNABLE.

WE'VE ARRIVED AT JUYONG PASS, KHAN.

YES?

SUBODAI! KEFTE! BUJEK!

YES?

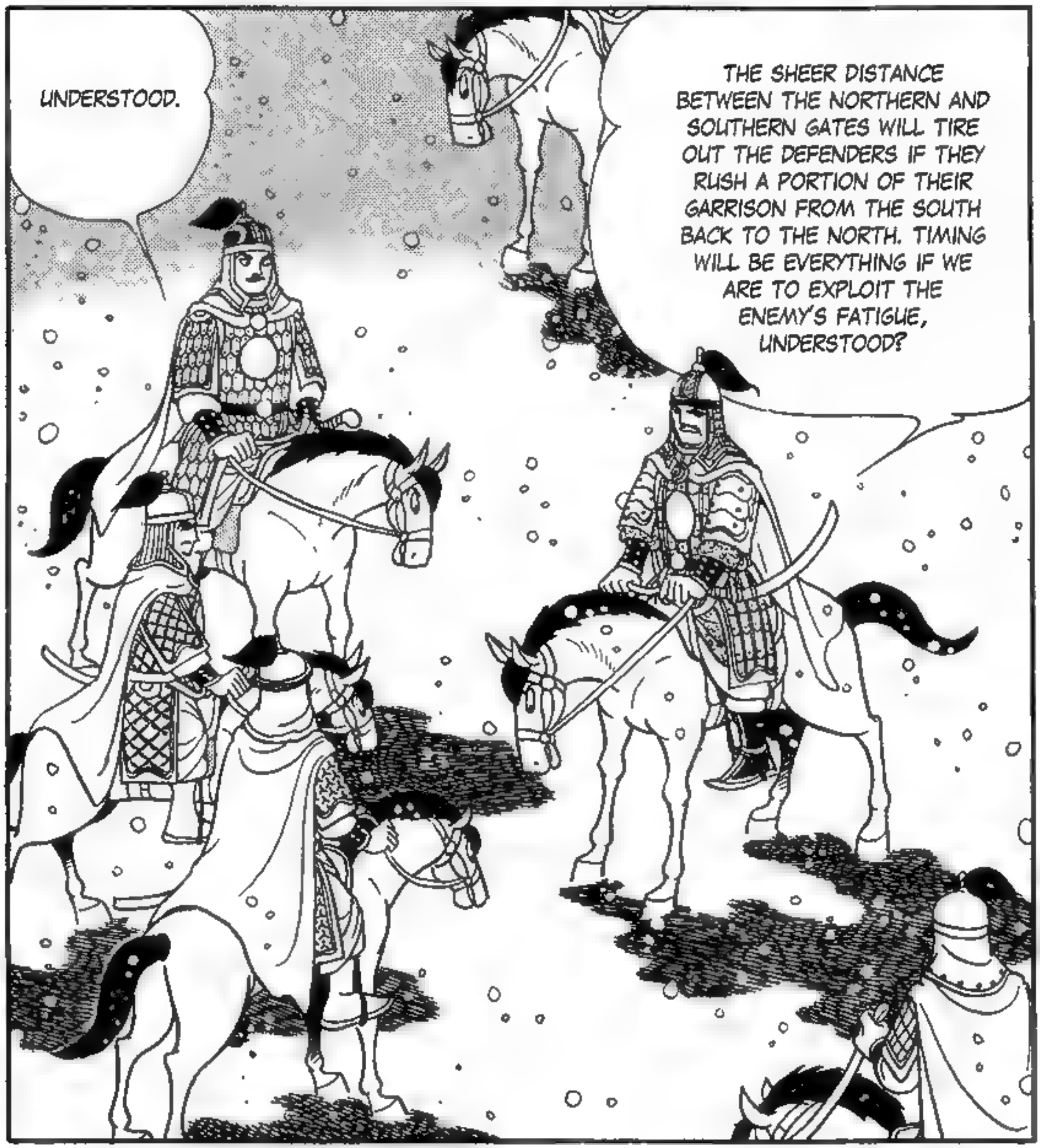
YES?

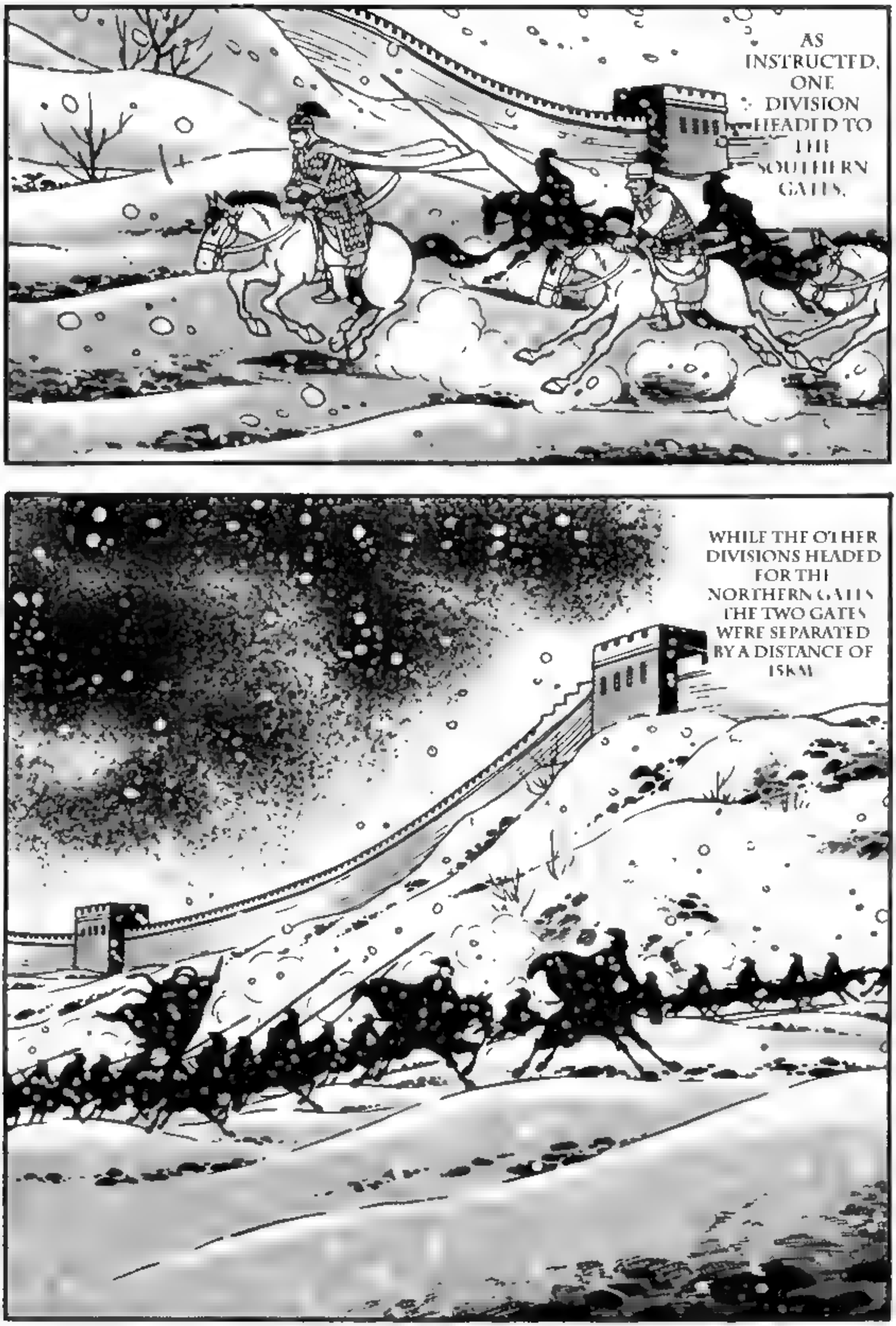
YES.

LEAD AN ATTACK ON THE SOUTHERN GATES, SO AS TO CALL MOST OF THEIR GARRISON THERE.

YES.
YES.

THAT'S WHEN YOU TWO WILL ORDER AN ATTACK ON THE NORTHERN GATES.


UNDERSTOOD.
THE SHEER DISTANCE BETWEEN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN GATES WILL TIRE OUT THE DEFENDERS IF THEY RUSH A PORTION OF THEIR GARRISON FROM THE SOUTH BACK TO THE NORTH. TIMING WILL BE EVERYTHING IF WE ARE TO EXPLOIT THE ENEMY'S FATIGUE, UNDERSTOOD?


AS INSTRUCTED, ONE DIVISION HEADED TO THE SOUTHERN GATES.
WHILE THE OTHER DIVISIONS HEADED FOR THE NORTHERN GATES THE TWO GATES WERE SEPARATED BY A DISTANCE OF 15KM

SUBODAI'S DIVISION COMMENCED THE ATTACK.

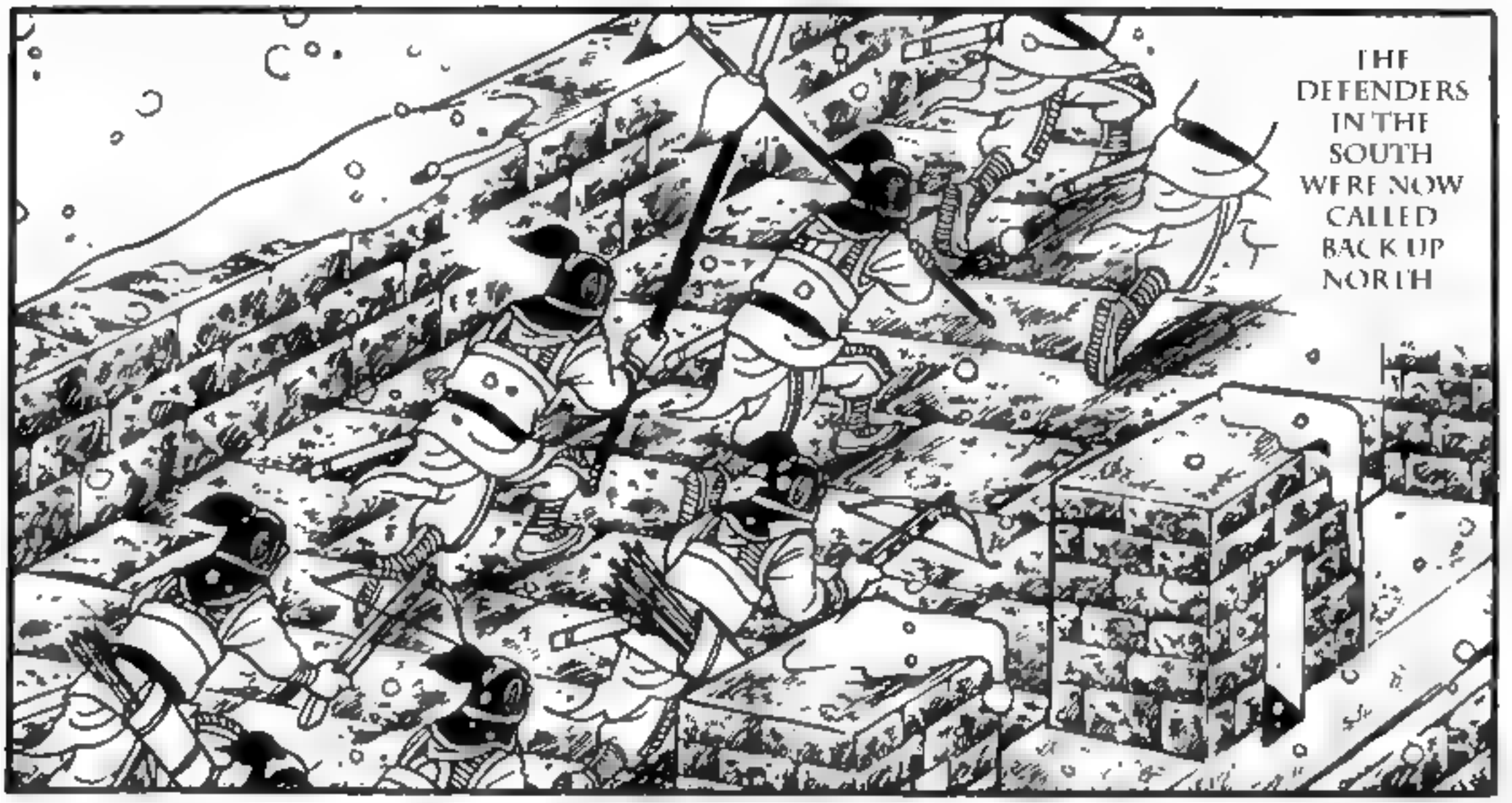
MORE AND MORE DEFENDERS BEGAN TO RUSH SOUTH TO PROVIDE SUPPORT

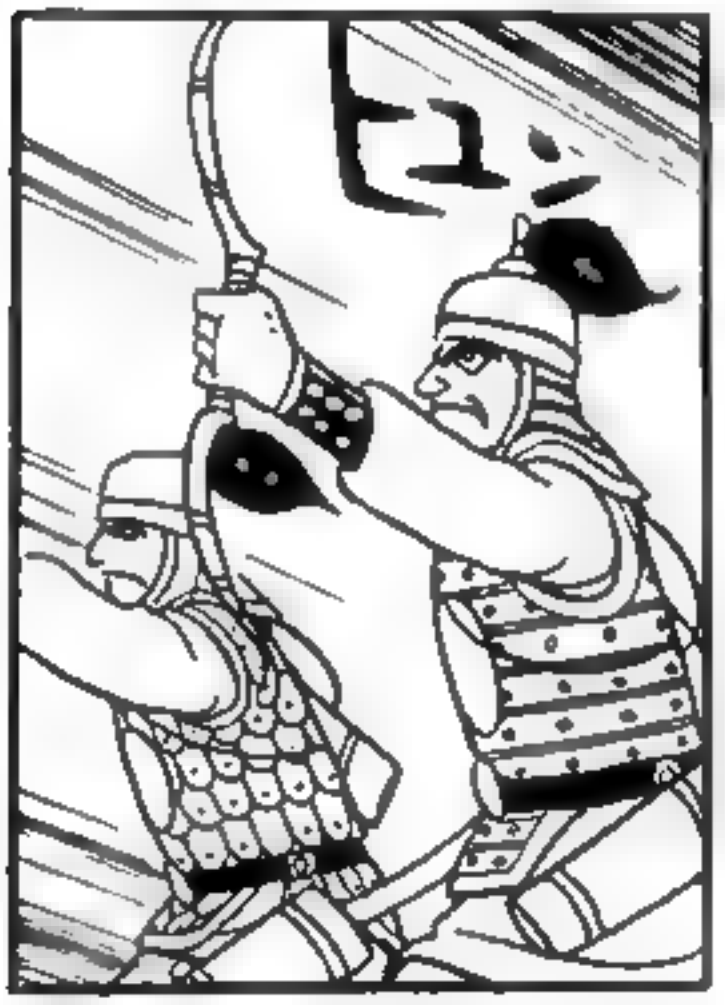
YES, SIR.

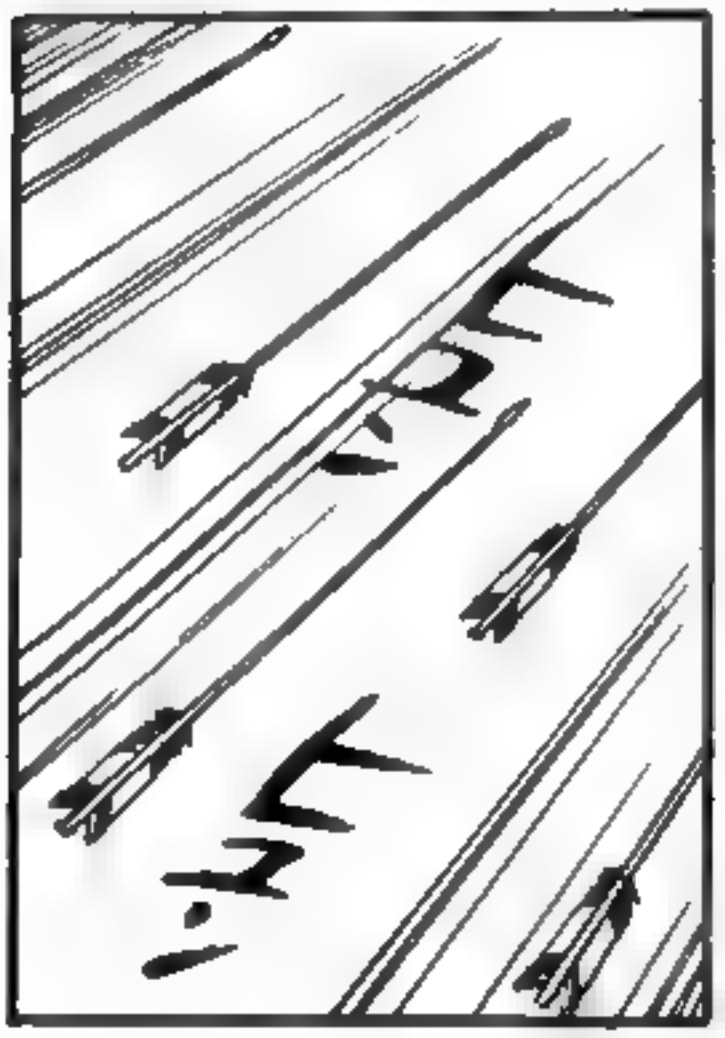
LIGHT THE SIGNAL.

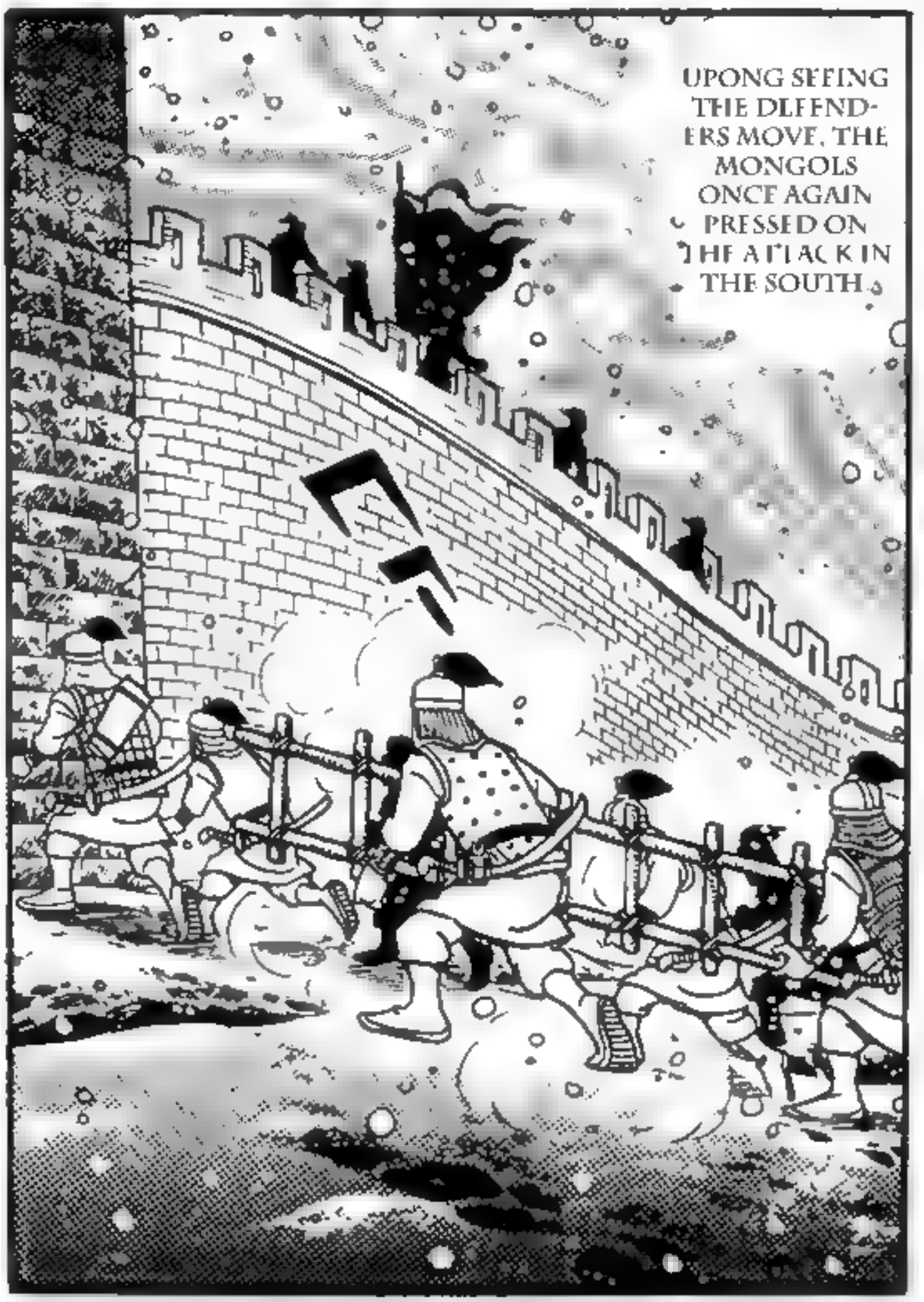
SIGNAL SPOTTED! THEY'VE BEGUN THE ATTACK!

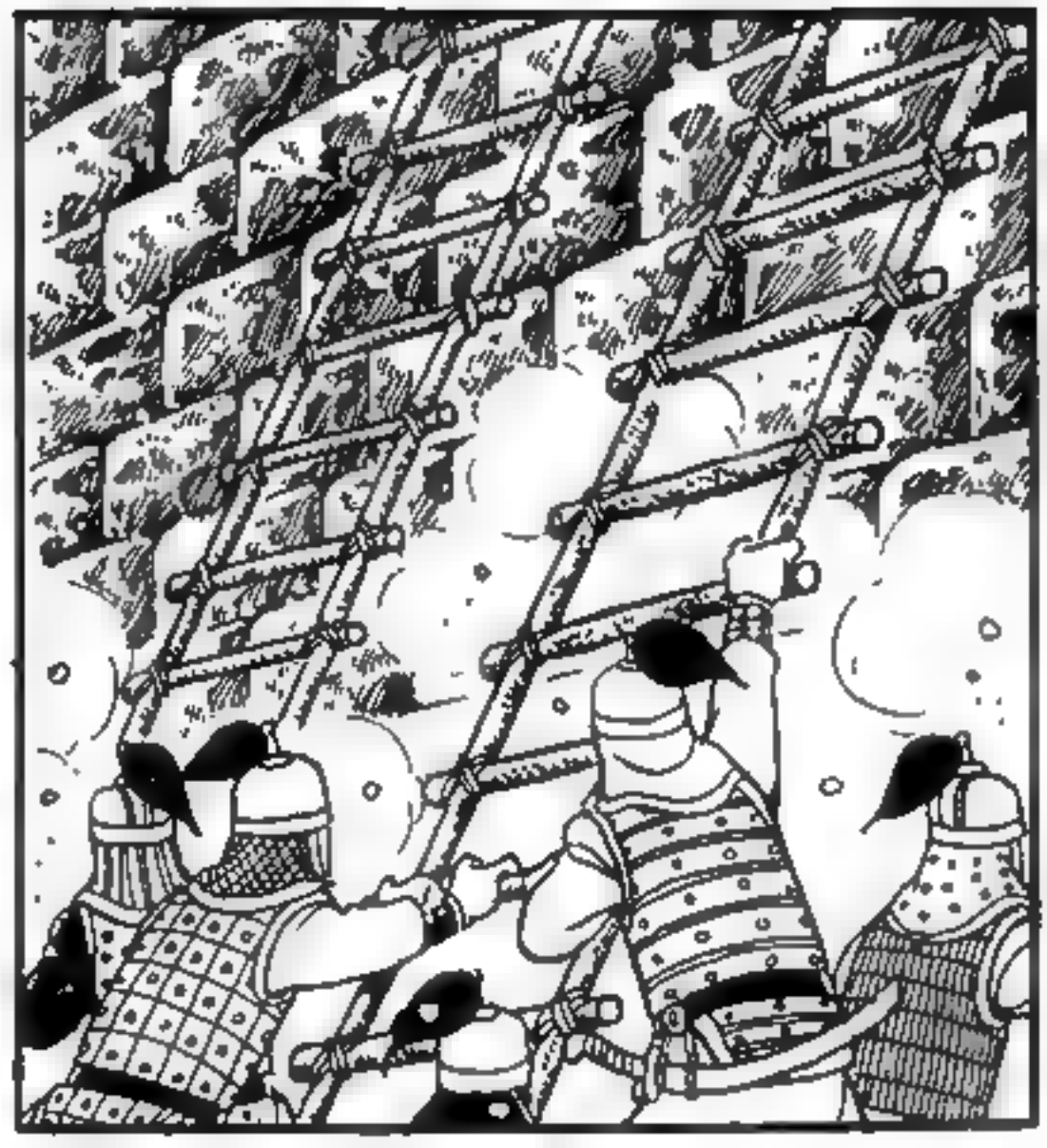
UPON SEEING THE SIGNAL, THE MONGOLS HIT THE NORTHERN GATES.

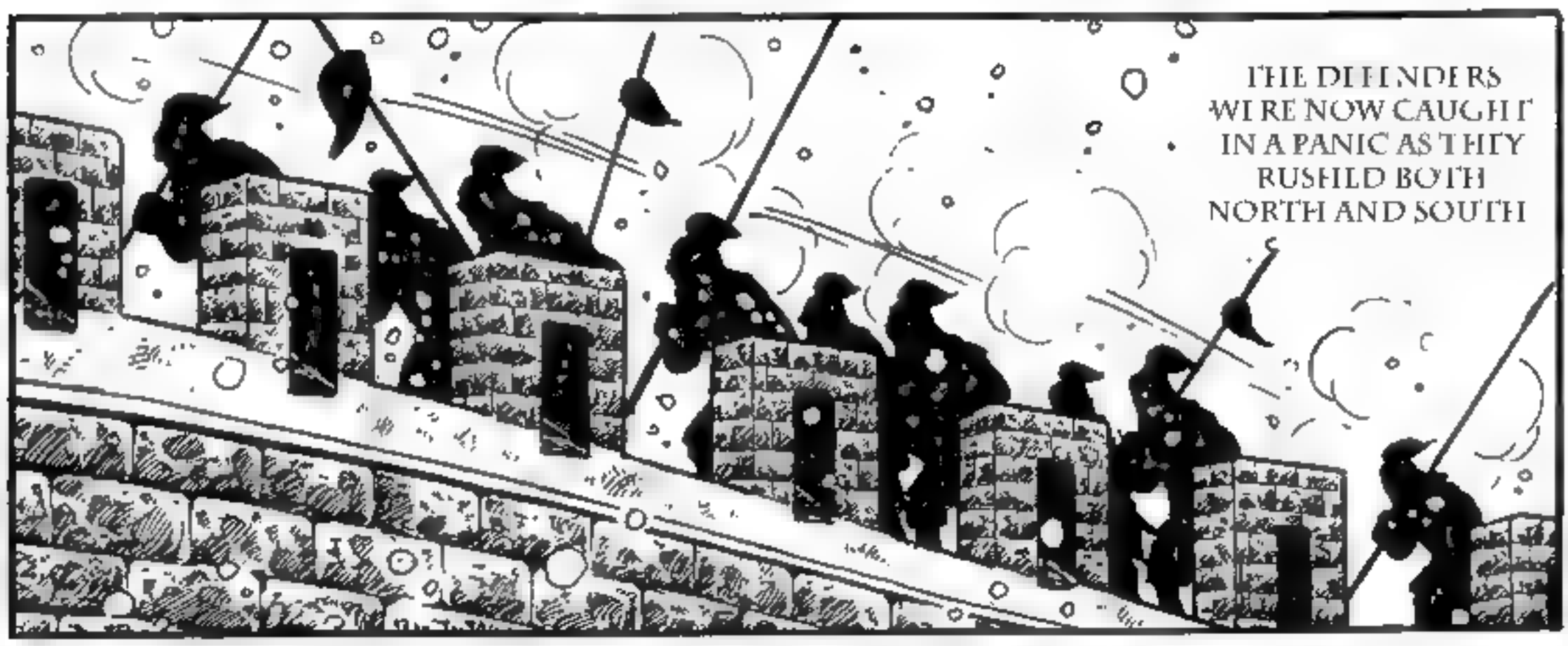

THE DEFENDERS IN THE SOUTH WERE NOW CALLED BACK UP NORTH

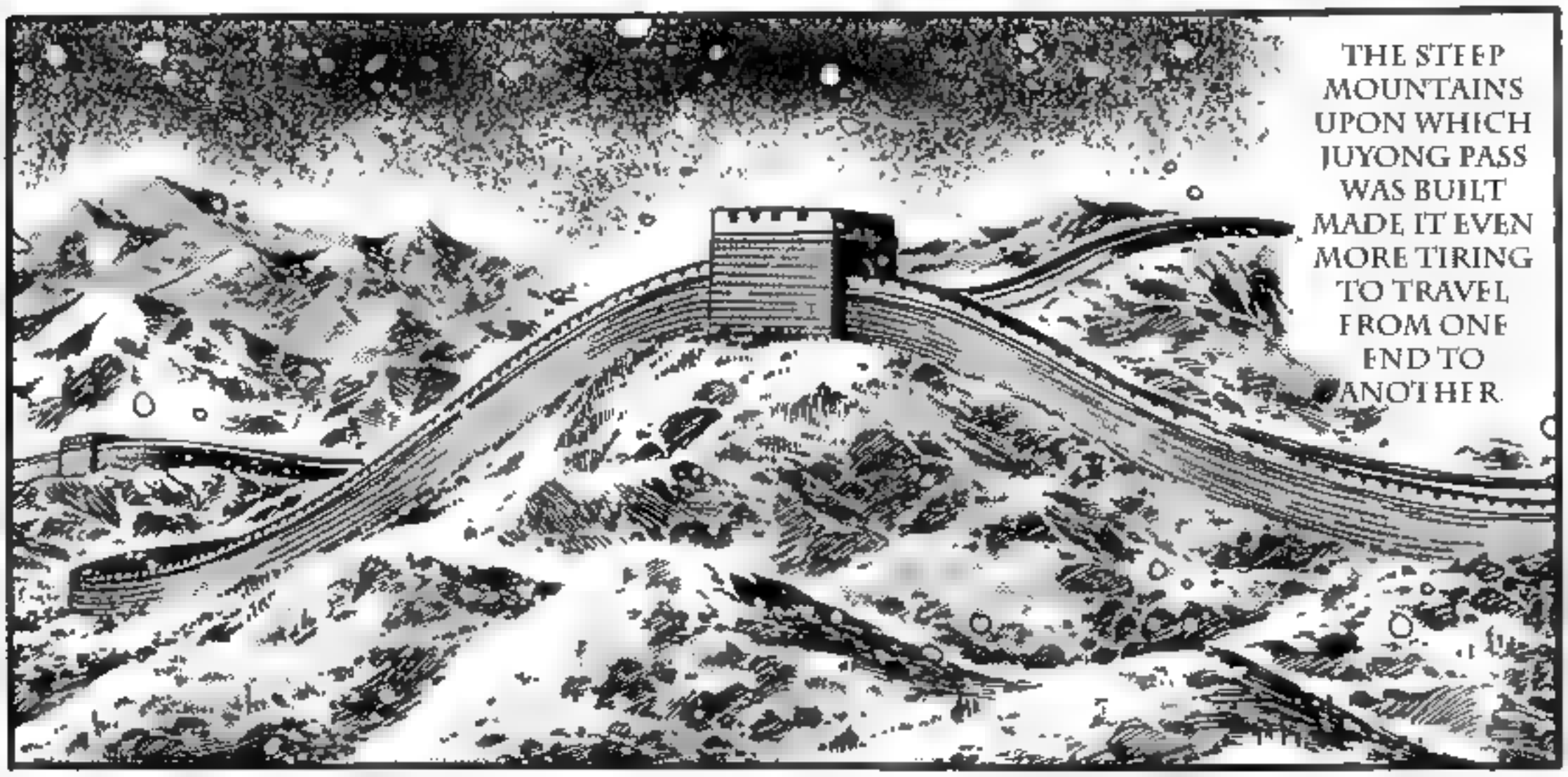





UPONG SEEING THE DLFEND-ERS MOVE, THE MONGOLS ONCE AGAIN PRESSED ON THE ATTACK IN THE SOUTH.




THE DEFENDERS WERE NOW CAUGHT IN A PANIC AS THEY RUSHED BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH


THE STEEP MOUNTAINS UPON WHICH JUYONG PASS WAS BUILT MADE IT EVEN MORE TIRING TO TRAVEL FROM ONE END TO ANOTHER.

TO RUN 15KM WHILE ARMOURED AND CARRYING WEAPONS IS NO EASY TASK, AND THE DEFENDERS SOON FOUND THEMSELVES TOO EXHAUSTED TO EVEN STAND

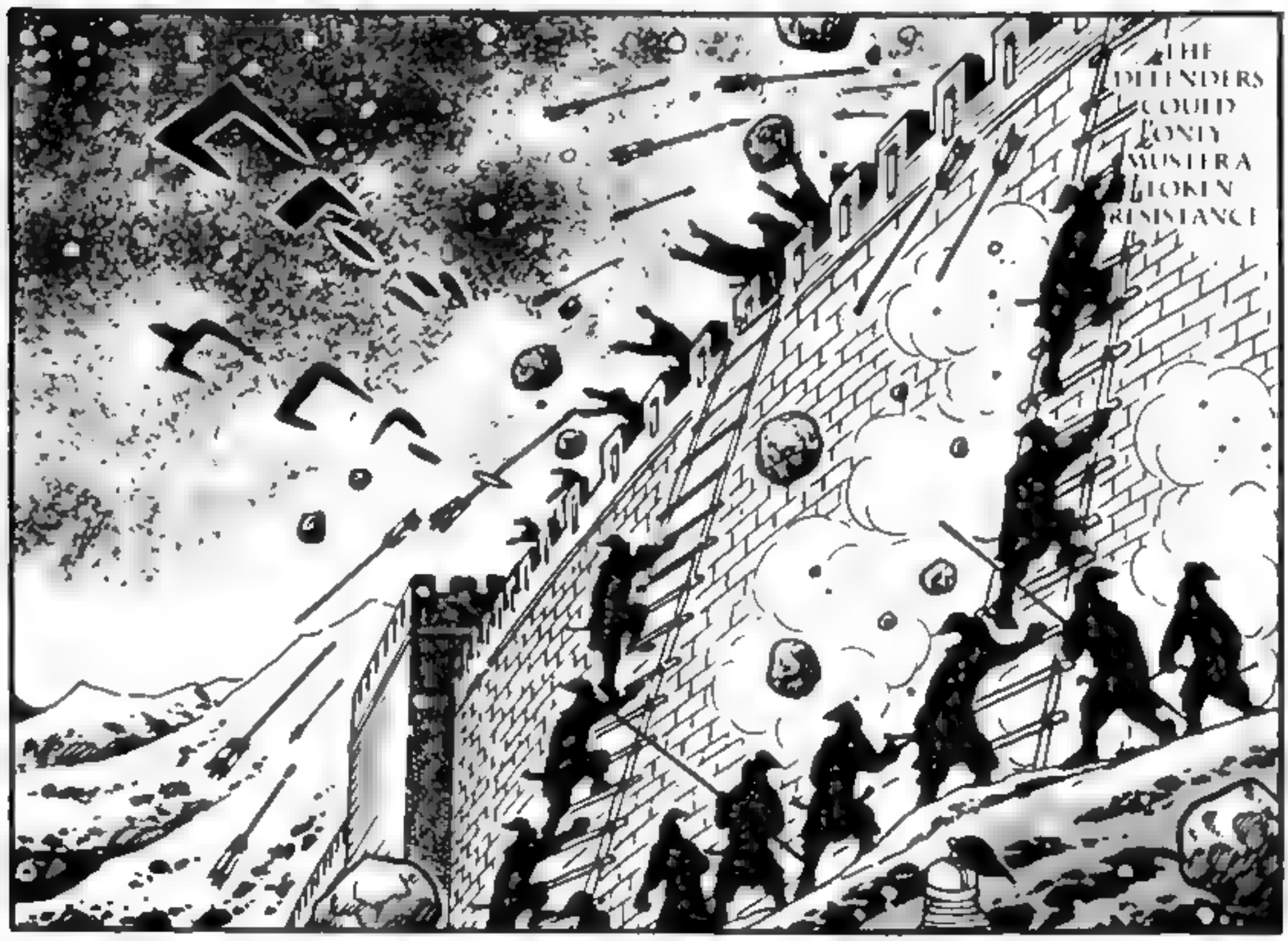
THE VOLUME OF ARROWS AND STONES BEING FLUNG HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED.

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE ENEMY GARRISON?

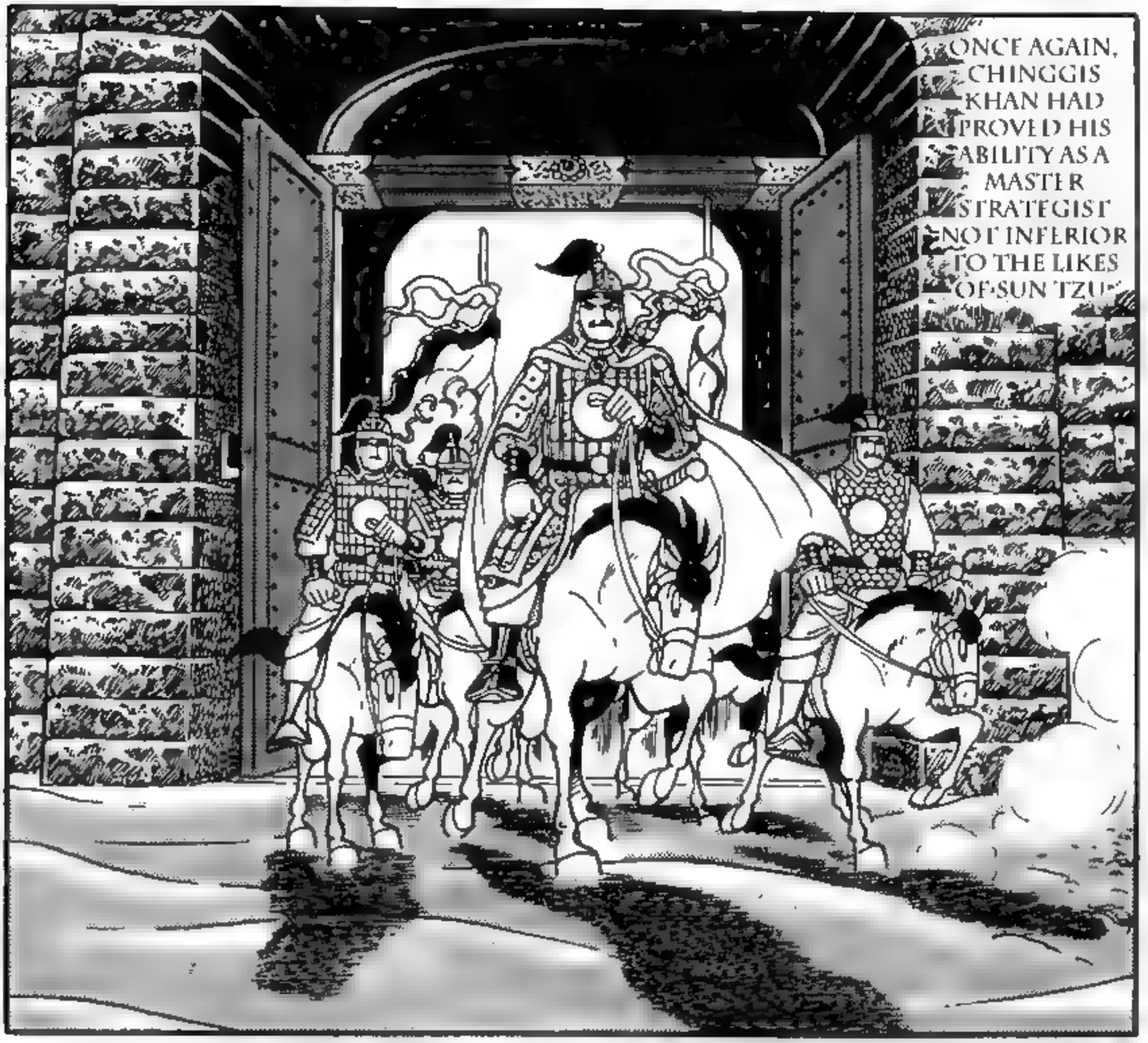
GIVE THE SIGNAL FOR A FULL-OUT ASSAULT!

EXCELLENT.

WHEN THE MONGOLS ATTEMPTED TO SCALE THE WALLS AGAIN,

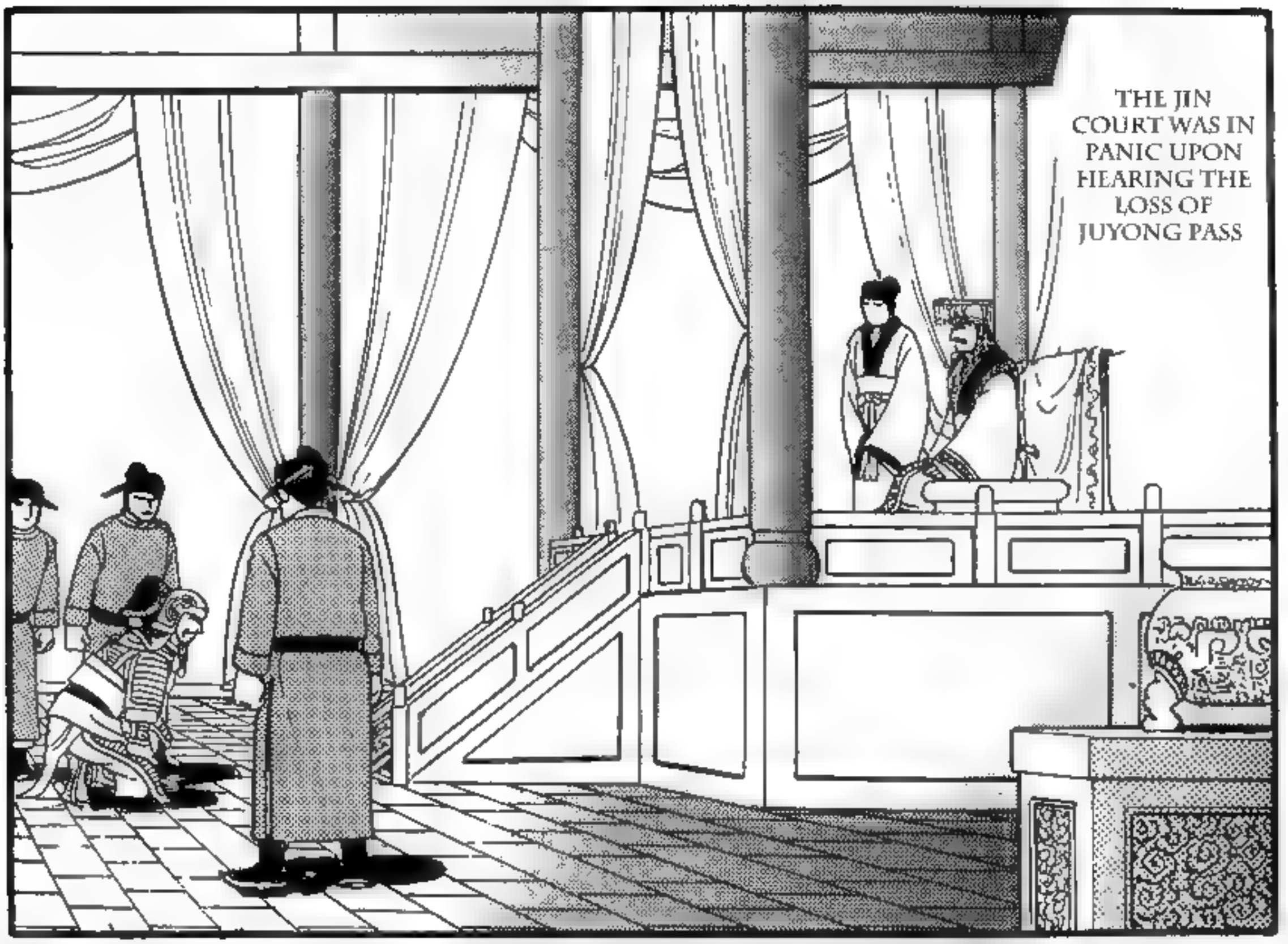

THE DEFENDERS COULD ONLY MUSTER A FEEBLE RESISTANCE

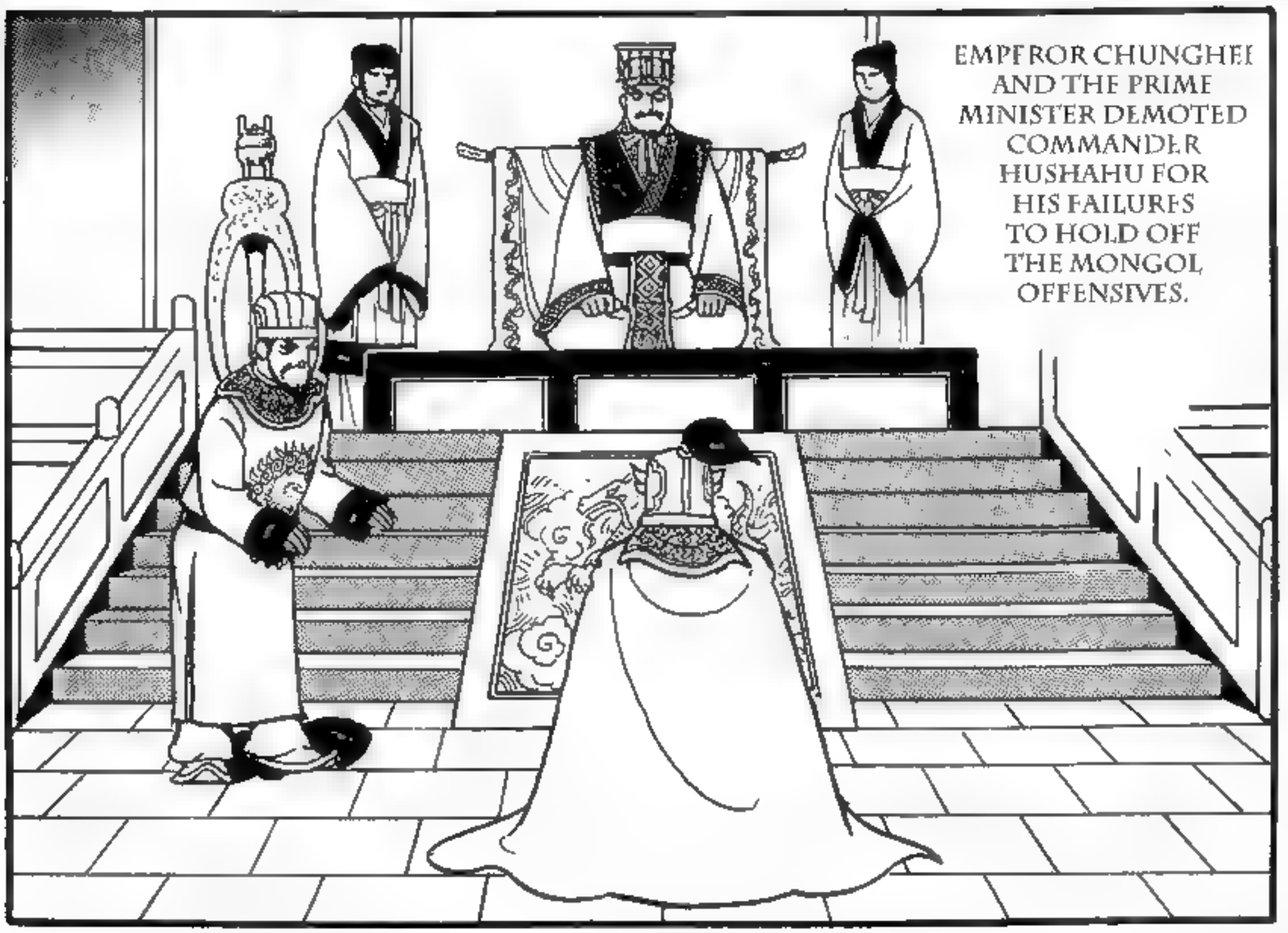
THUS, THE IMPREGNABLE JUYONG PASS WAS OVERCOME.


ONCE AGAIN, CHINGGIS KHAN HAD PROVED HIS ABILITY AS A MASTER STRATEGIST NOT INFERIOR TO THE LIKES OF SUN TZU.

MEANWHILE, THE TWO ARMIES OF THE LEFT AND RIGHT HAD SUCCEEDING IN RAVAGING ALL LANDS NORTH OF THE YELLOW RIVER.

THEY HAD SACKED OVER 90 MAJOR CITIES IN THEIR RAMPAGE.





*CHUNGHEI (TITLE WHILE EMPEROR) = PRINCE SHAO OF WEI (TITLE BEFORE BEING EMPEROR) = WANYAN YONGJI (ACTUAL NAME)

ENRAGED, THE AMBITIOUS GENERAL SLEW THE PRIME MINISTER.

AND THEN USED A PALACE EUNUCH TO POISON THE EMPEROR.

HE THEN SEATED PRINCE OF UDABU ON THE THRONE, WHO WAS CORONATED AS EMPEROR XUANZONG, THE 8TH JIN EMPEROR.

THE JIN NOW SHOWED CLEAR SIGNS OF CRUM BLING FROM WITHIN.

IN SPRING OF 1214, CHINGGIS KHAN CALLED FOR HIS SEPARATE ARMIES TO ASSEMBLE AT ZHONGDU.
MONGOL REGIMENTS ARRIVED ONE AFTER ANOTHER FOR THE SIEGE OF THE CAPITAL.
HOWEVER, A PESTILENCE HAD BEEN SPREADING THROUGH-OUT JIN AT THIS TIME.

YES, AND THERE'RE MANY MORE WITH HIGH FEVERS ON THE BRINK OF DEATH...

ANOTHER 10 DEAD TODAY FROM THE PLAGUE?

THIS DOES NOT BODE WELL... BATTLES, I CAN WIN, BUT A PLAGUE, I CANNOT OVERCOME...

NEGOTIATION? AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY TO FINALLY SIEGE THEIR CAPITAL?

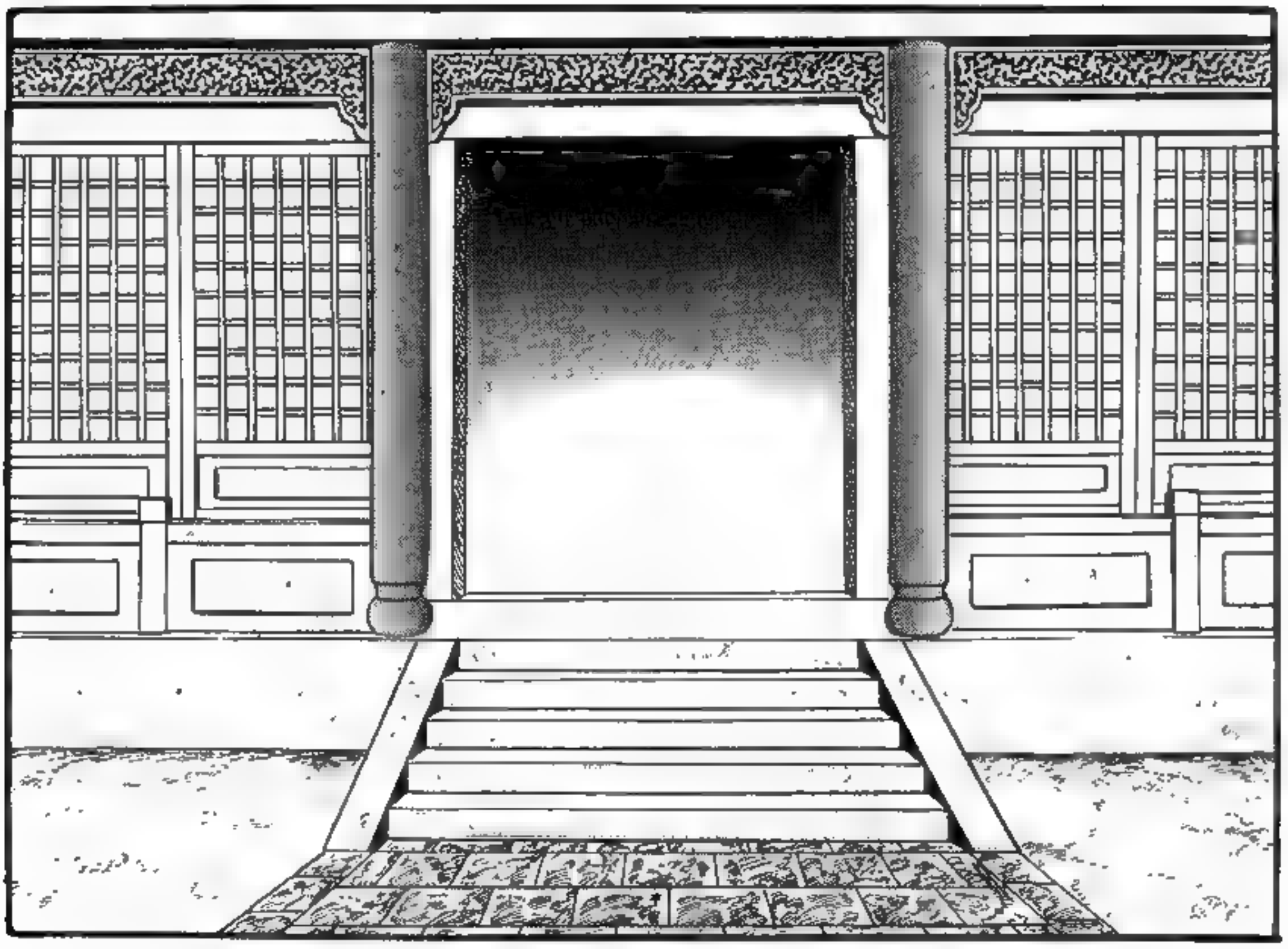
LET US OPEN NEGOTIA-TIONS FOR TRUCE.

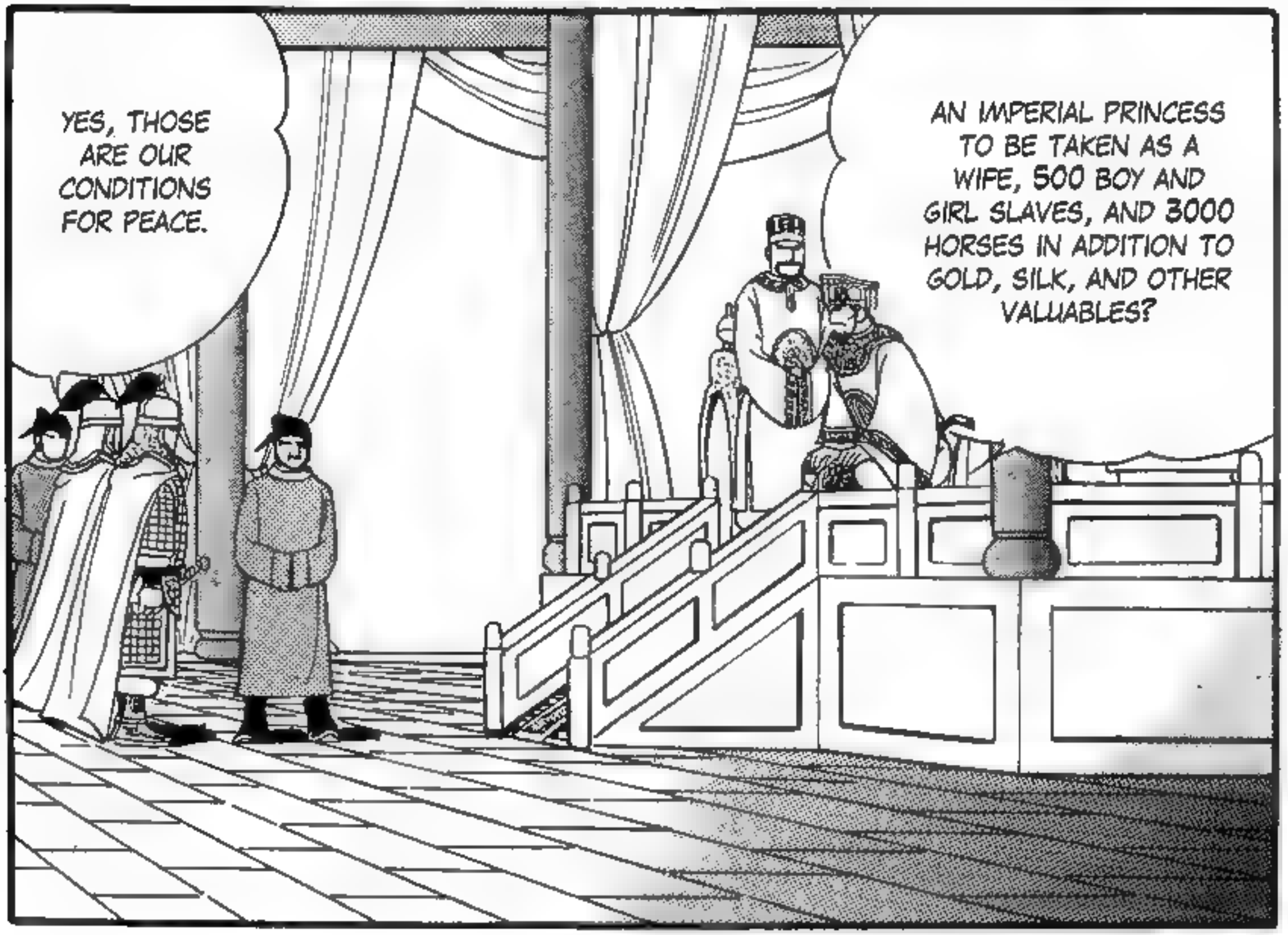
IF WE REMAIN HERE TOO LONG, THE PLAGUE WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR CAMPS AND WE WILL FIND NO HAVEN EVEN IF WE RETREAT. AS FOR ZHONGDU, ITS IMMEDIATE CAPTURE IS UNNECESSARY WHEN WE HOLD ALL THE TERRITORY SURROUNDING IT.

JUST ONE MORE PUSH AND THE CAPITAL WILL BE OURS!

YES, KHAN.

SEND TWO MESSENGERS TO ZHONGDU AT ONCE.



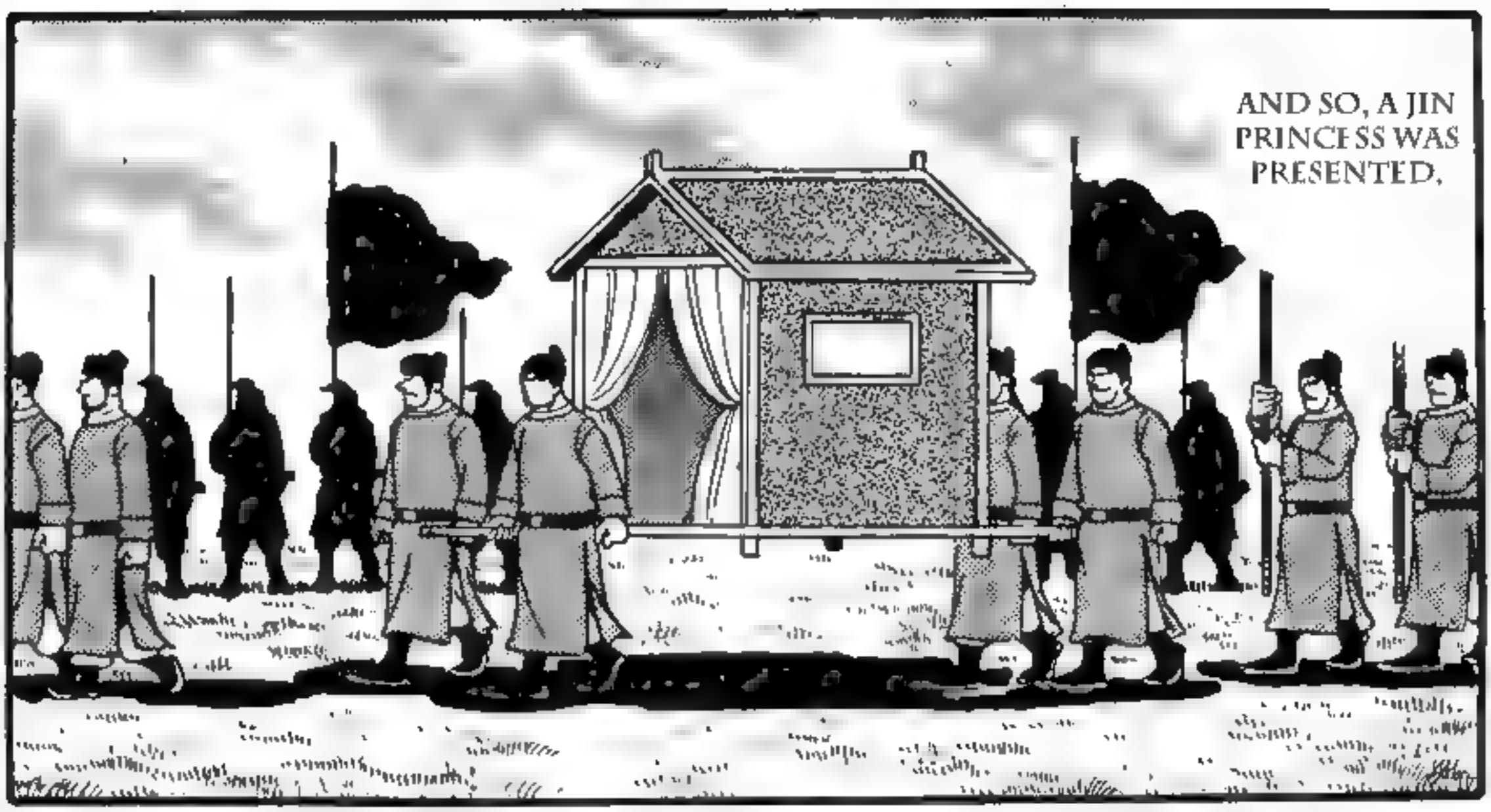

YES, THOSE ARE OUR CONDITIONS FOR PEACE.
AN IMPERIAL PRINCESS TO BE TAKEN AS A WIFE, 500 BOY AND GIRL SLAVES, AND 3000 HORSES IN ADDITION TO GOLD, SILK, AND OTHER VALUABLES?

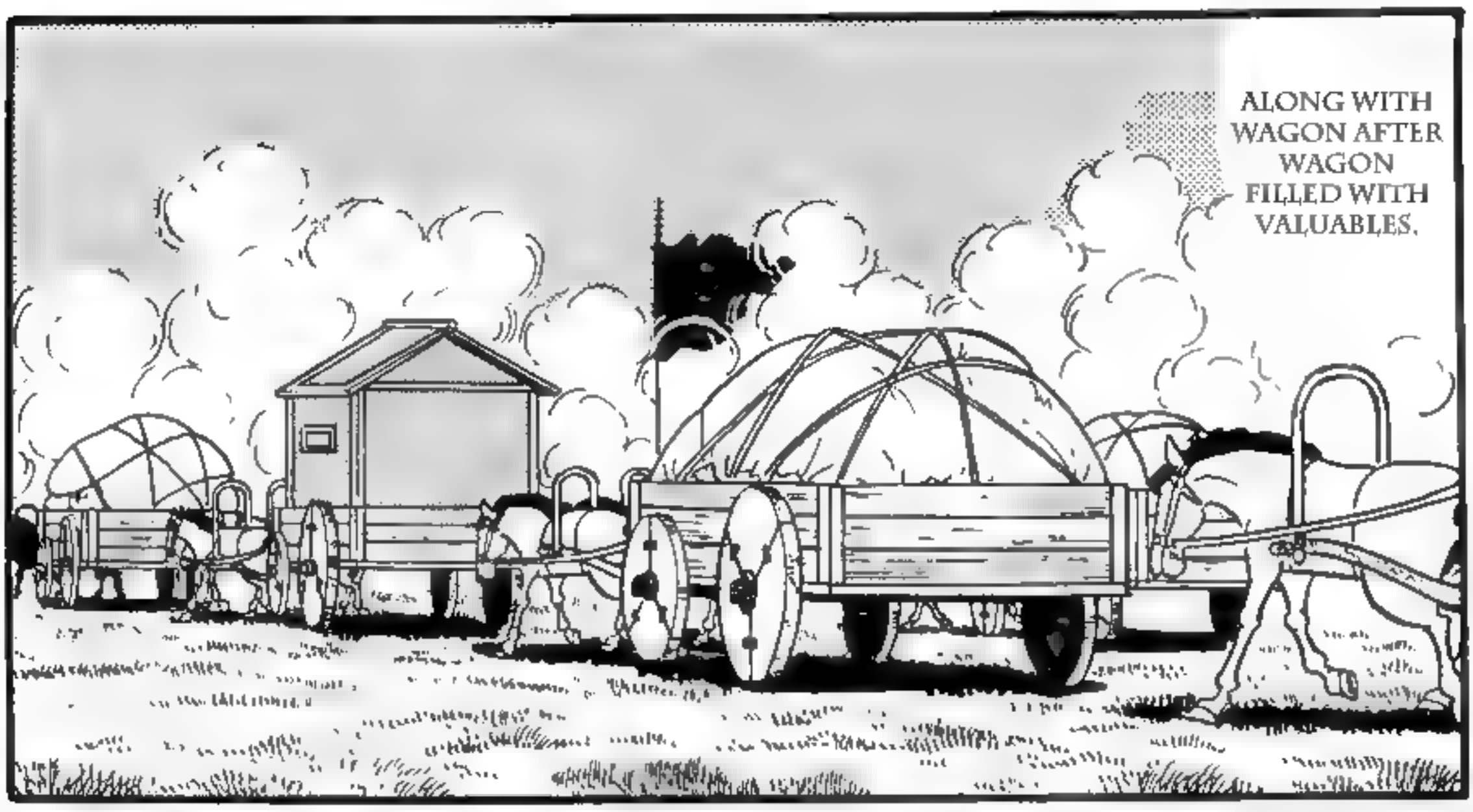
I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO REAL CHOICE. LET US ACCEPT FOR NOW SO THAT THE MONGOLS WILL WITHDRAW. WE CAN COME UP WITH STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH THE MONGOLS AFTERWARDS.

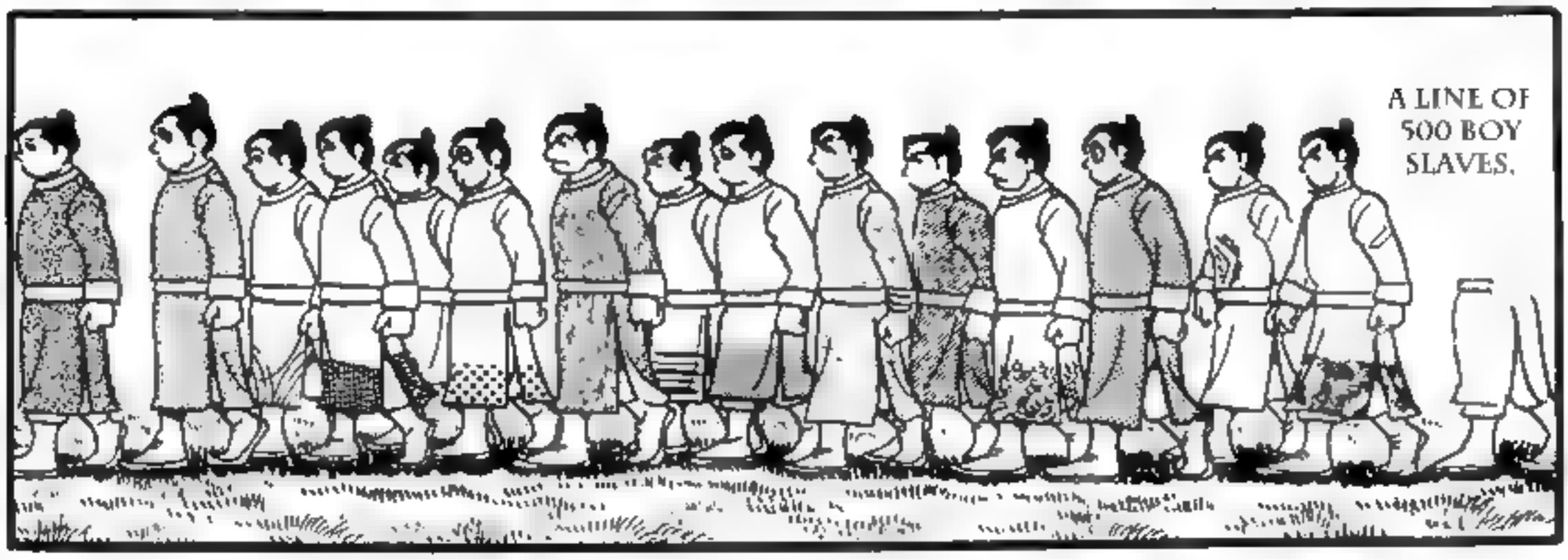
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS DEAL, PRIME MINISTER?

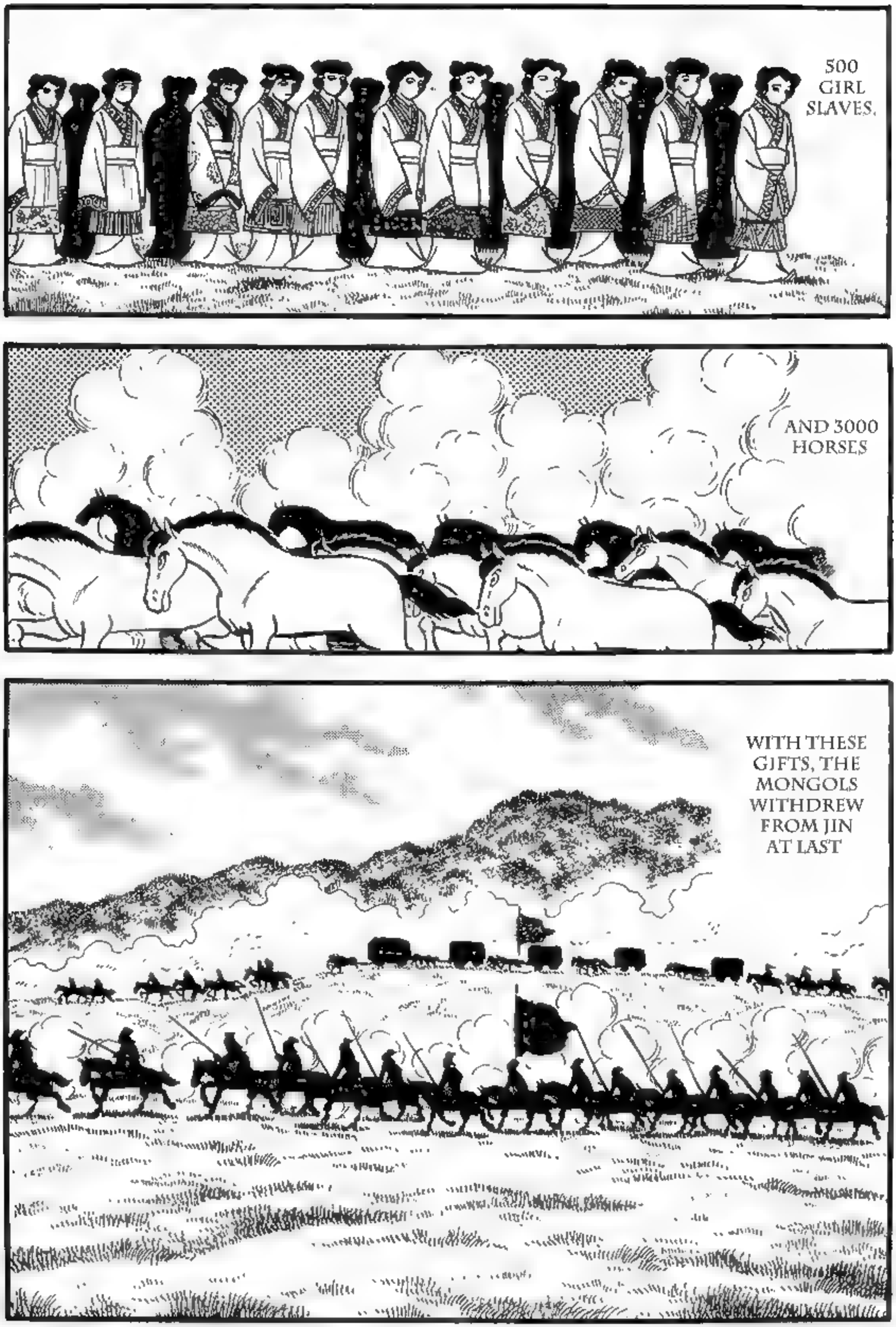
VERY WELL, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR TERMS.

WE SHALL PASS ON YOUR WORDS TO OUR KHAN.


AND SO, A JIN PRINCESS WAS PRESENTED.


ALONG WITH WAGON AFTER WAGON FILLED WITH VALUABLES.


A LINE OF 500 BOY SLAVES.


500
GIRL
SLAVES.
AND 3000
HORSES
WITH THESE
GIFTS, THE
MONGOLS
WITHDREW
FROM JIN
AT LAST

YES, WE ARE TOO CLOSE TO THE NORTHERN BORDERS HERE. IT WOULD BE SAFER TO MOVE THE CAPITAL SOUTH TO NANJING.

RELOCATE THE CAPITAL?

*NANJING = MODERN-DAY KAIFENG

I HAVE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND. COMMENCE THE PREPARATIONS AT ONCE!

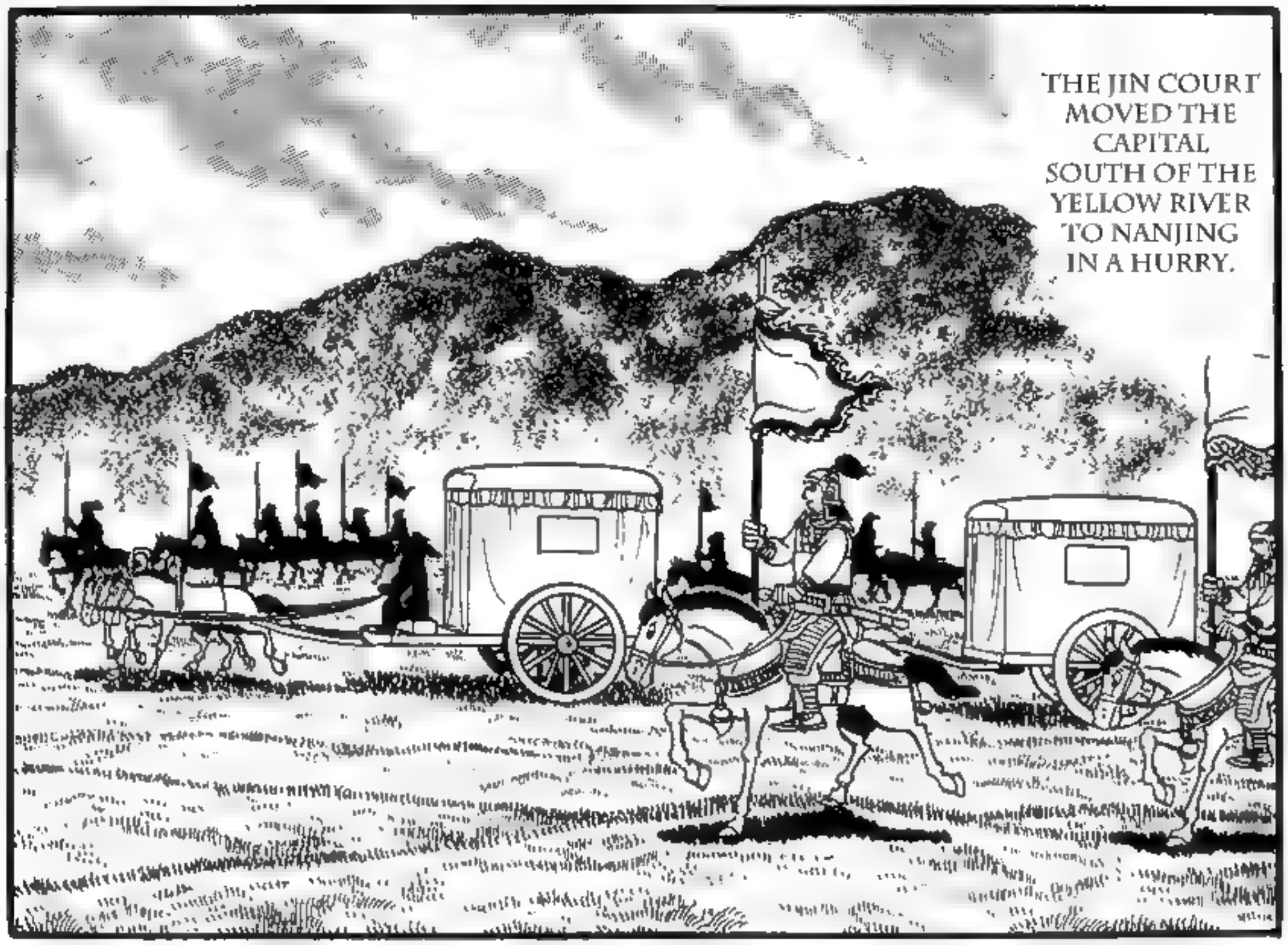
BUT TO DO SO IS TO ESSENTIALLY ABANDON ANY IDEA OF RECON-QUERING OUR LOST NORTHERN LANDS!

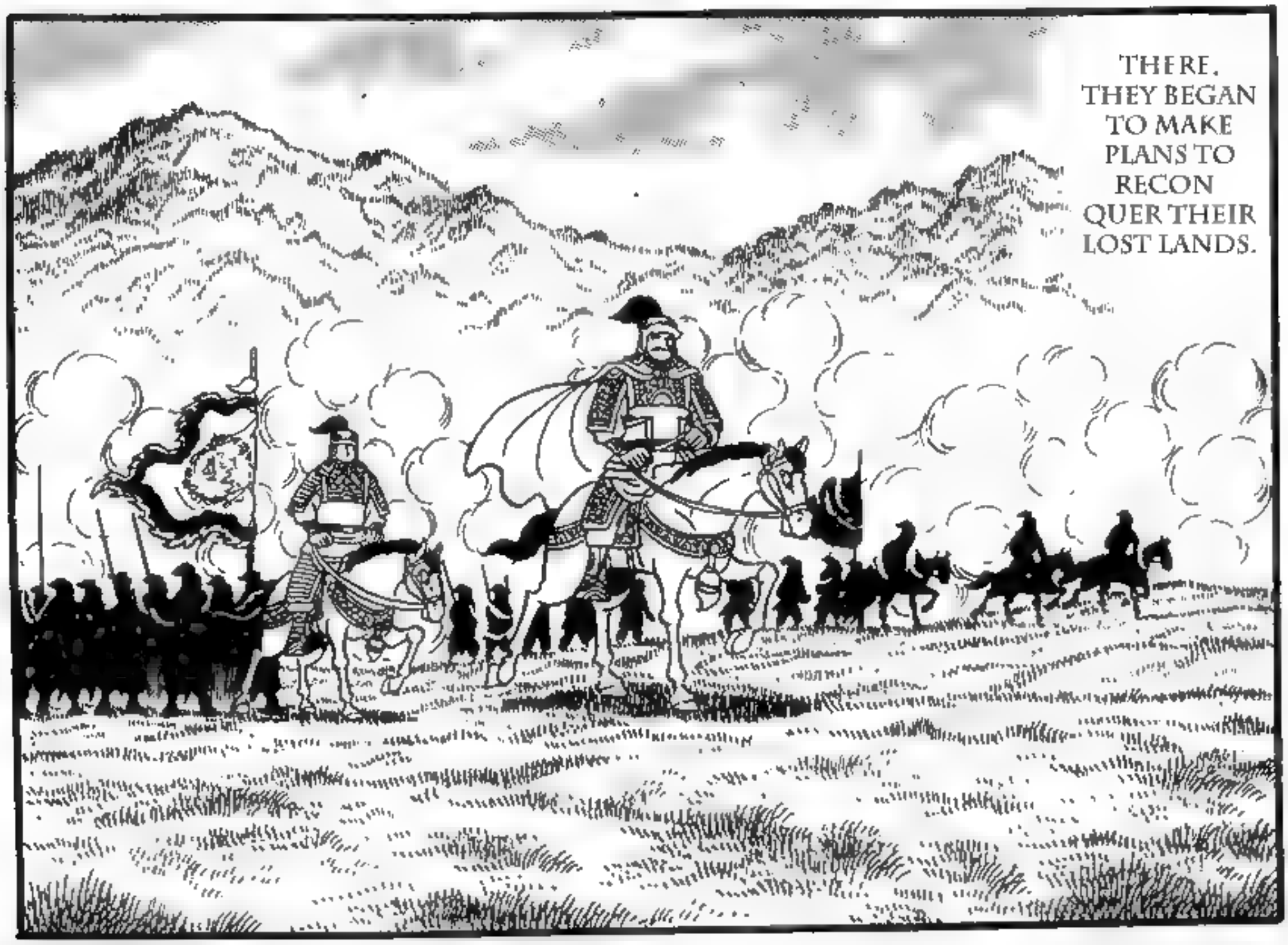
YOU AND THE CROWN PRINCE WILL GOVERN IT IN MY ABSENCE.

THEN... WHAT WILL BECOME OF ZHONGDU?

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

ONCE THE CAPITAL HAS BEEN MOVED, I WILL REGROUP OUR ARMIES AND RECONQUER OUR LOST CITIES.


THE JIN COURT MOVED THE CAPITAL SOUTH OF THE YELLOW RIVER TO NANJING IN A HURRY.


THERE, THEY BEGAN TO MAKE PLANS TO RECON QUER THEIR LOST LANDS.

Zhongdu Set Ablaze

SINCE WITHDRAWING FROM ZHONGDU, CHINGGIS KHAN HAD MADE CAMP IN THE LANDS FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE TARTARS.

THEY RELOCATED THE CAPITAL SOUTH TO NANJING!?

WHAT!?

NOT ONLY THAT, THEY HAVE SENT FORCES INTO LIAOXI. I'VE RECEIVED CALLS FOR REINFORCEMENTS FROM OUR TROOPS STATIONED THERE.

YES, KHAN.

CALL MUKALI, SAMUKA, AND SHIMO MING'AN AT ONCE!

THEY DARE TO BREAK THE PEACE TREATY ONLY 3 MONTHS AFTER!?

WITHOUT ANY WORD, THE JIN HAVE NOT ONLY RELOCATED THEIR CAPITAL, BUT BROKE THE PEACE TREATY BY SENDING ARMED FORCES TO LIAOXI.
YES.
YES.
SAMLIKA AND SHIMO MING'AN. YOU TWO WILL BESIEGE ZHONGDU.

DATONG...?

ZHONGDU IS A LARGE AND WELL-DEFENDED CITY. REFRAIN FROM MAKING HASTY FRONTAL ASSAULTS AND RECALL HOW I FELL DATONG.

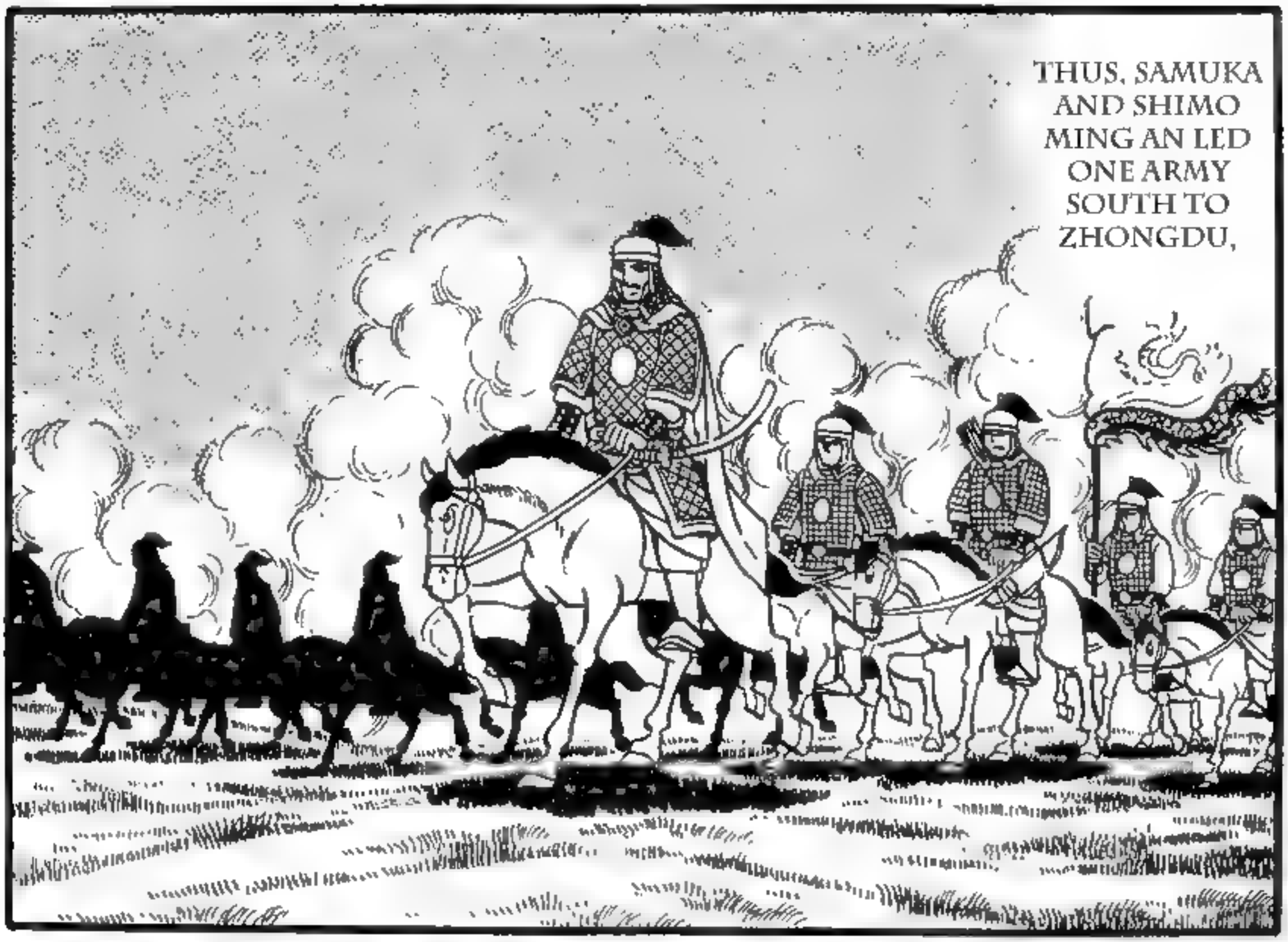
YES, KHAN.

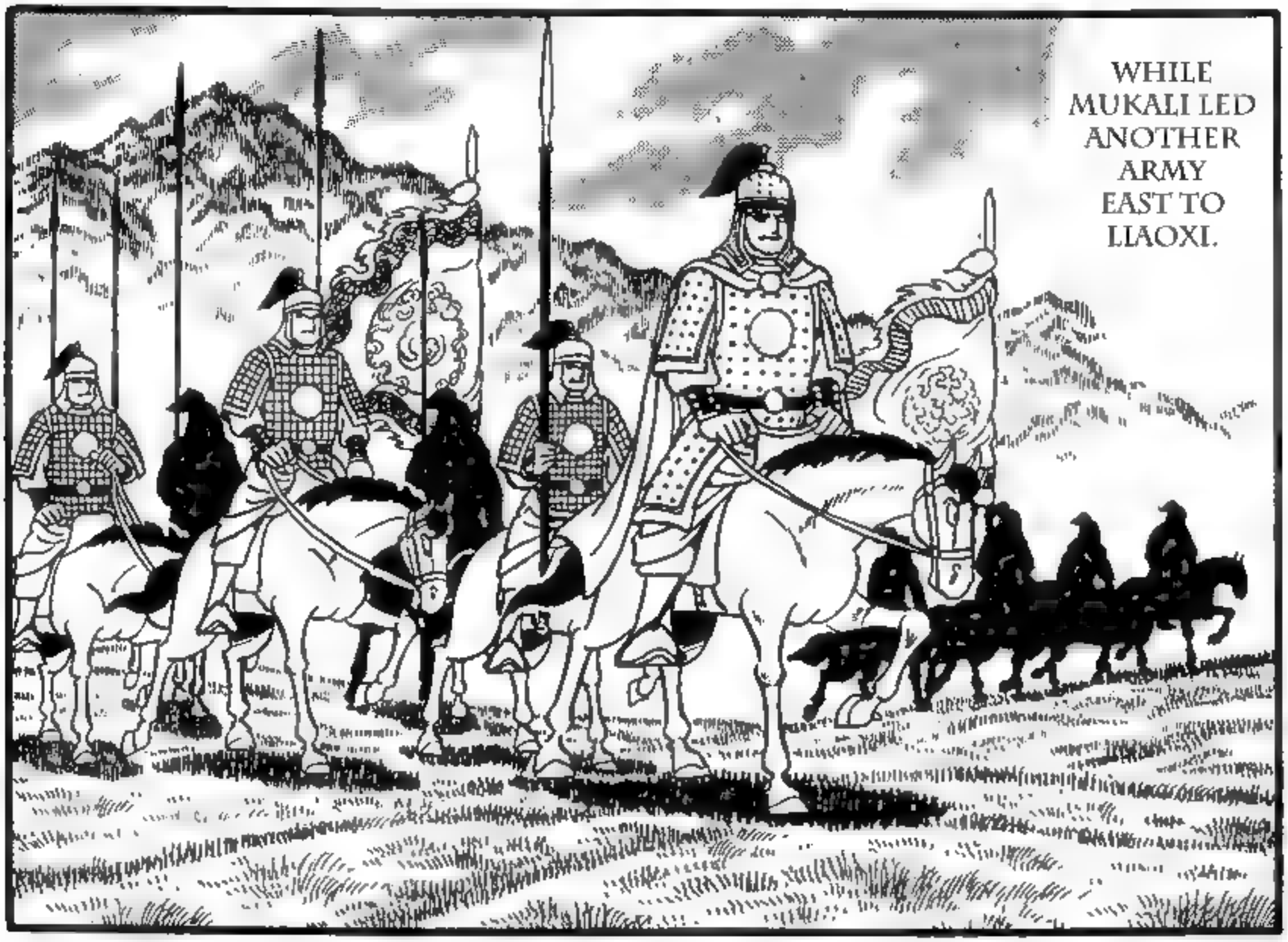
MAKE SURE TO SPARE ANY SPECIALISTS AND EXPERT ENGINEERS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN CONSTRUCTING SIEGE ENGINES WHEN YOU CAPTURE THE CITY.

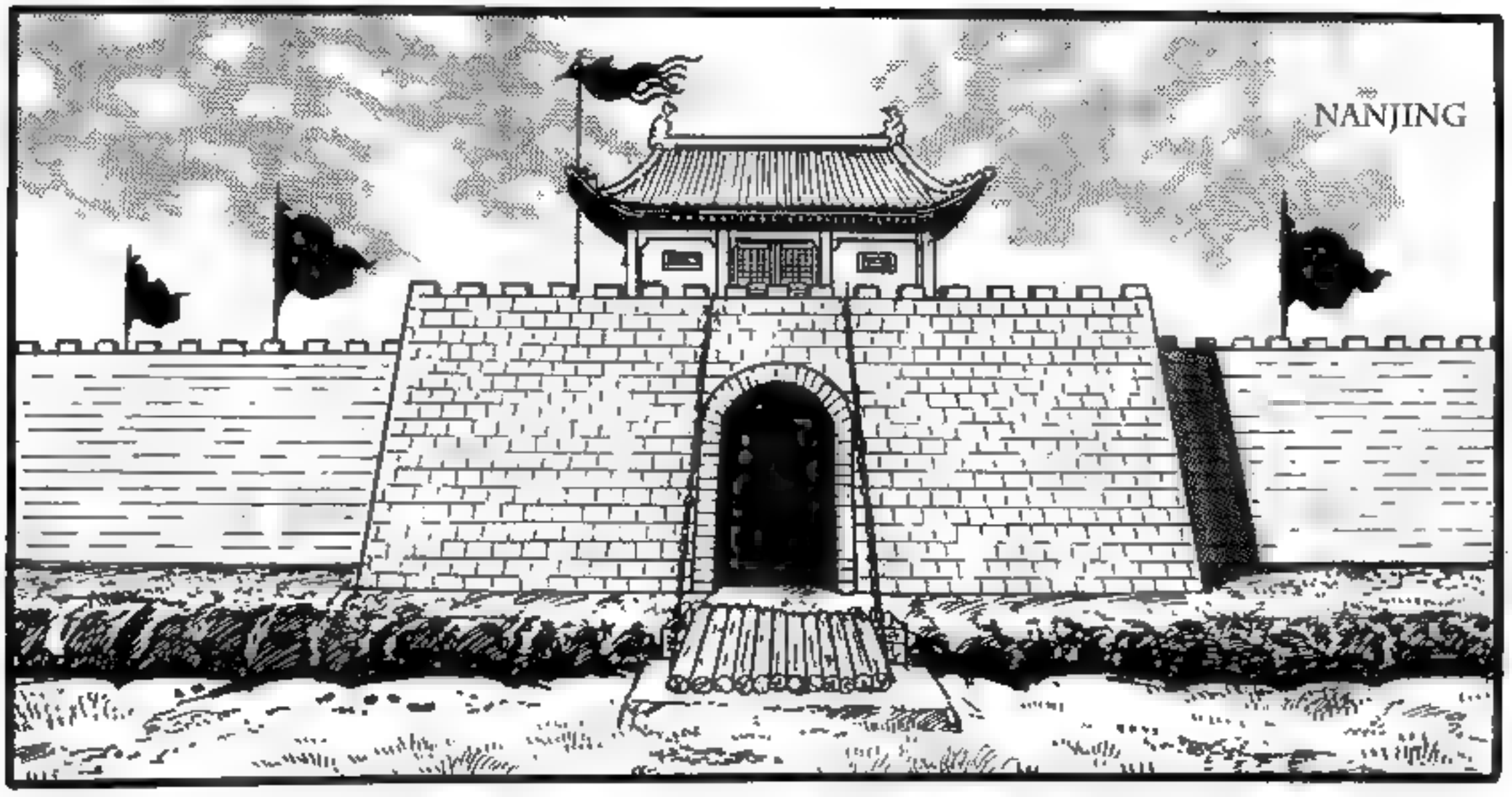
YES, I ISOLATED THE CITY AND PATIENTLY STARVED OUT THE DEFENDERS.

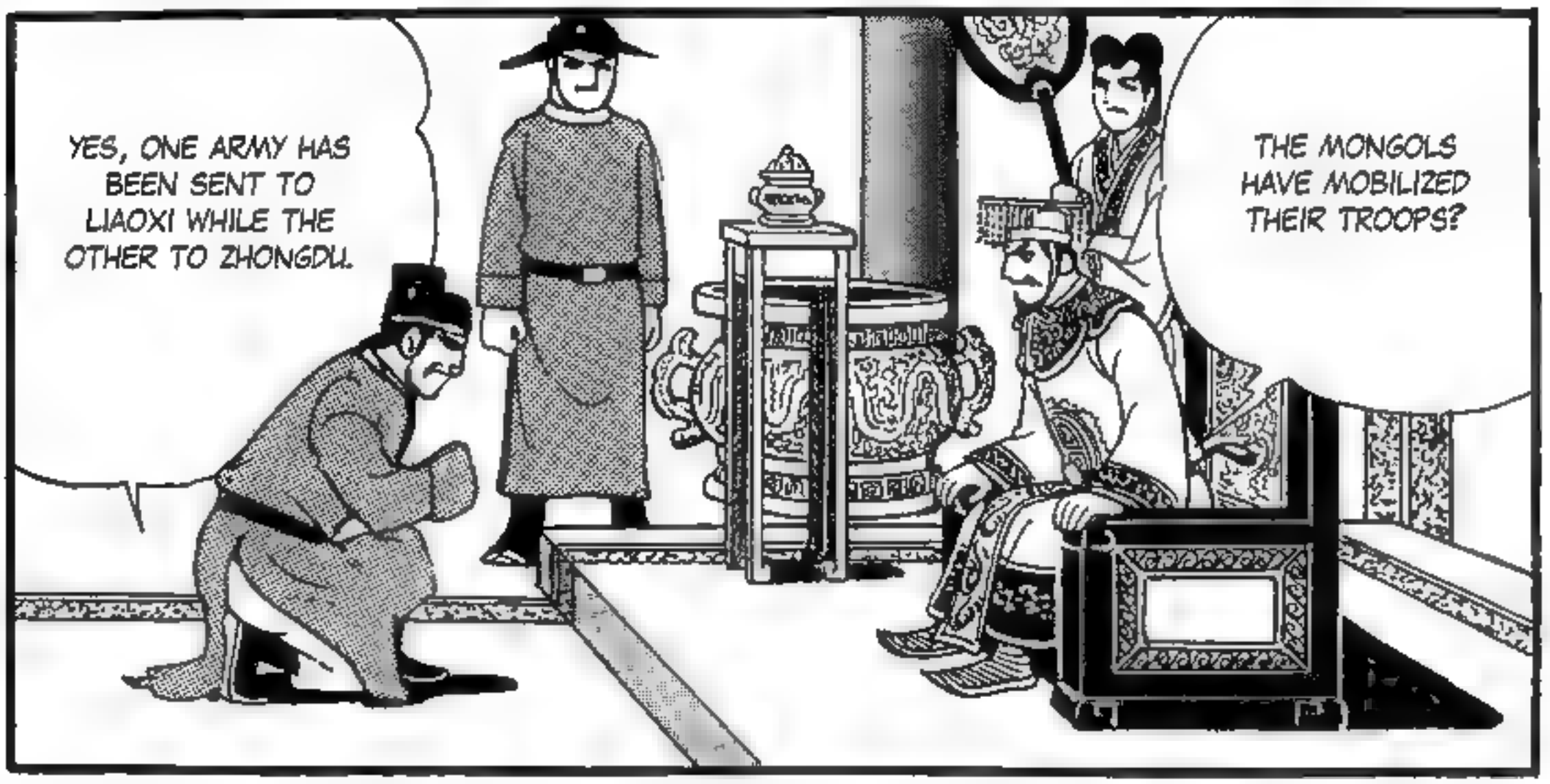
YES.

MUKALI, YOU WILL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR LIAOXI AND DEFEAT THE JIN ARMY.


THUS, SAMUKA AND SHIMO MING AN LED ONE ARMY SOUTH TO ZHONGDU,

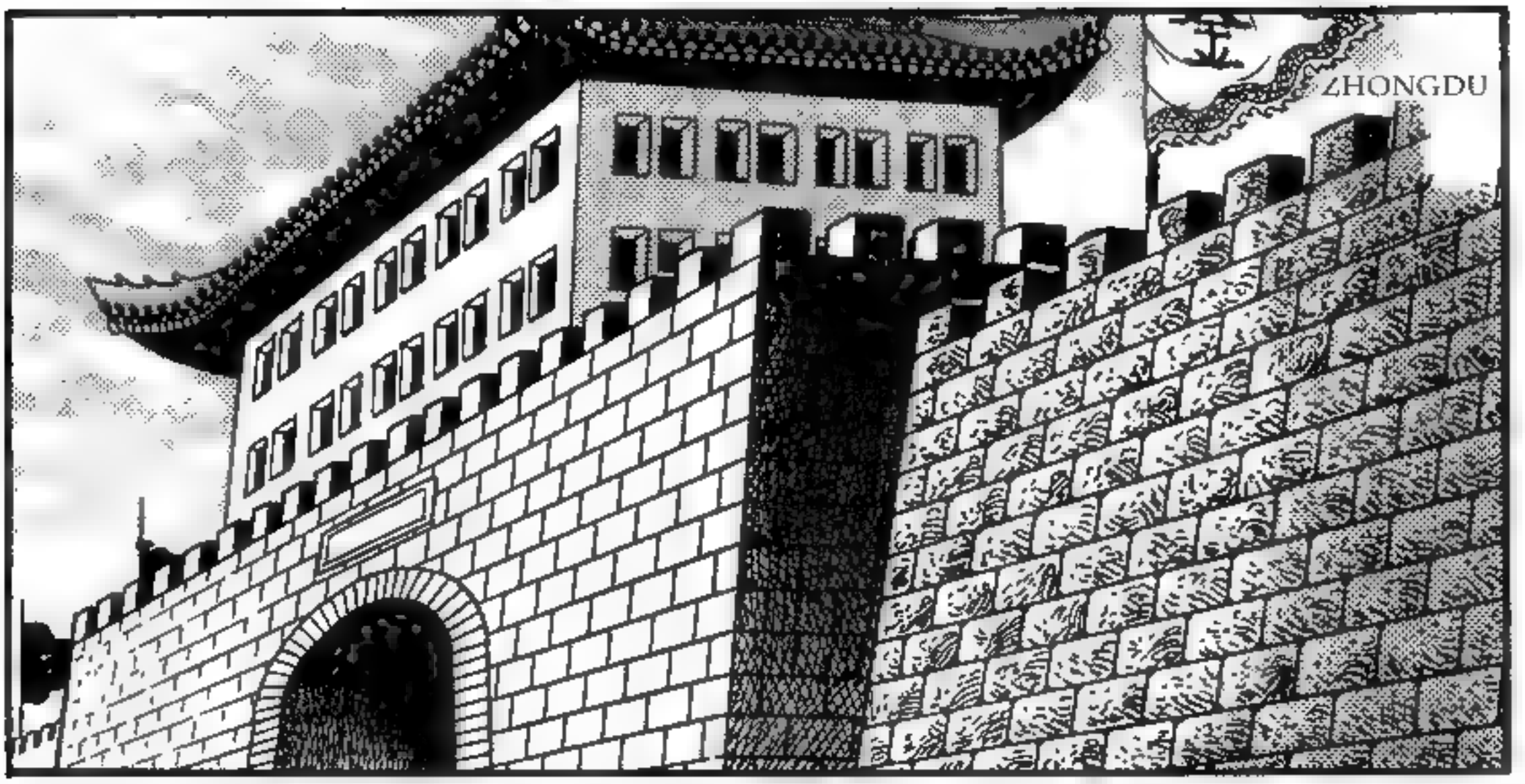

WHILE MUKALI LED ANOTHER ARMY EAST TO LIAOXI.

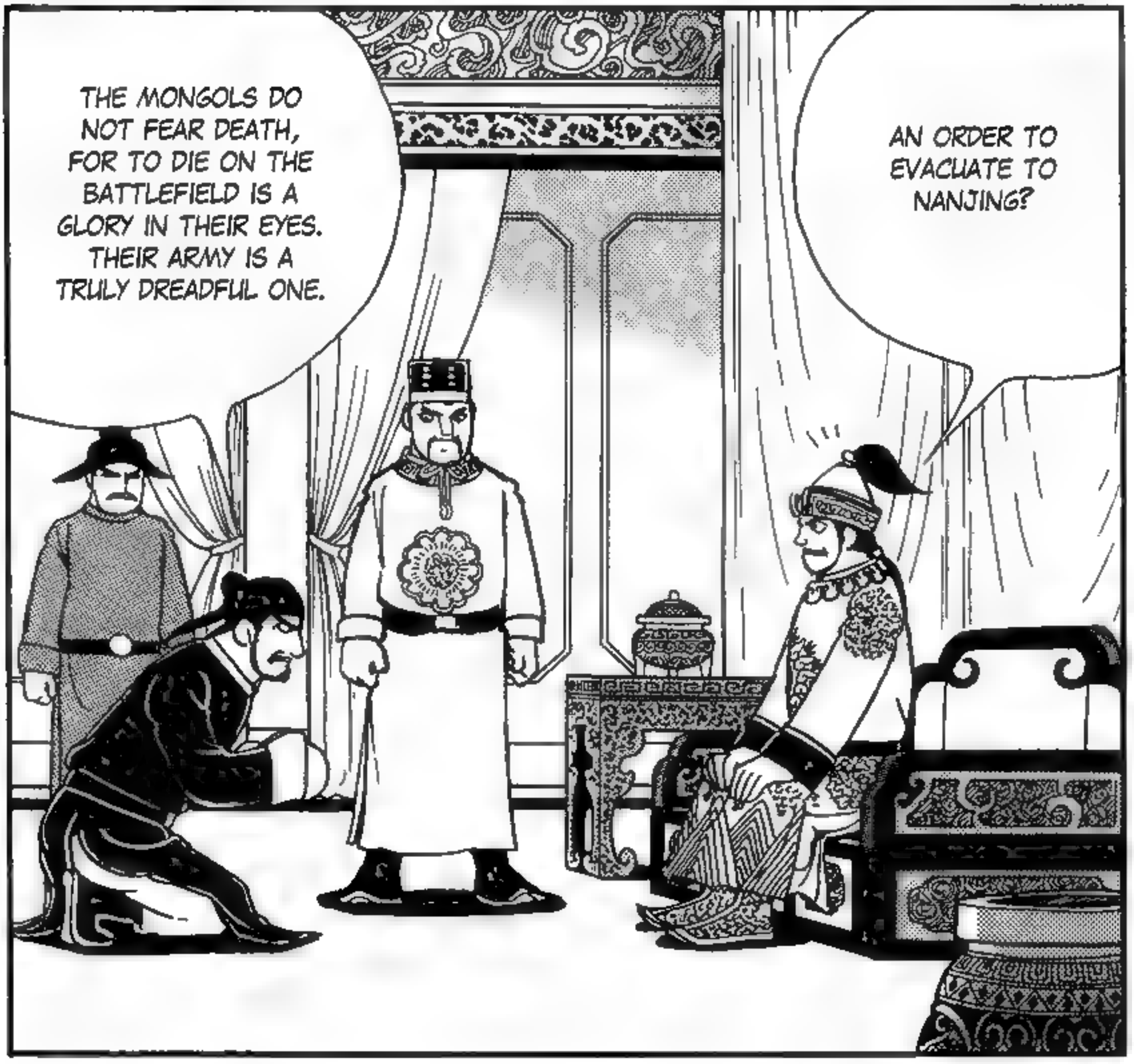

NANJING


YES, ONE ARMY HAS BEEN SENT TO LIAOXI WHILE THE OTHER TO ZHONGDU.
THE MONGOLS HAVE MOBILIZED THEIR TROOPS?

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

MNN... I FEAR FOR MY SON'S SAFETY. CALL THE CROWN PRINCE TO NANJING AT ONCE.


ZHONGDU


THE MONGOLS DO NOT FEAR DEATH, FOR TO DIE ON THE BATTLEFIELD IS A GLORY IN THEIR EYES. THEIR ARMY IS A TRULY DREADFUL ONE.
AN ORDER TO EVACUATE TO NANJING?

CROWN PRINCE! I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER.

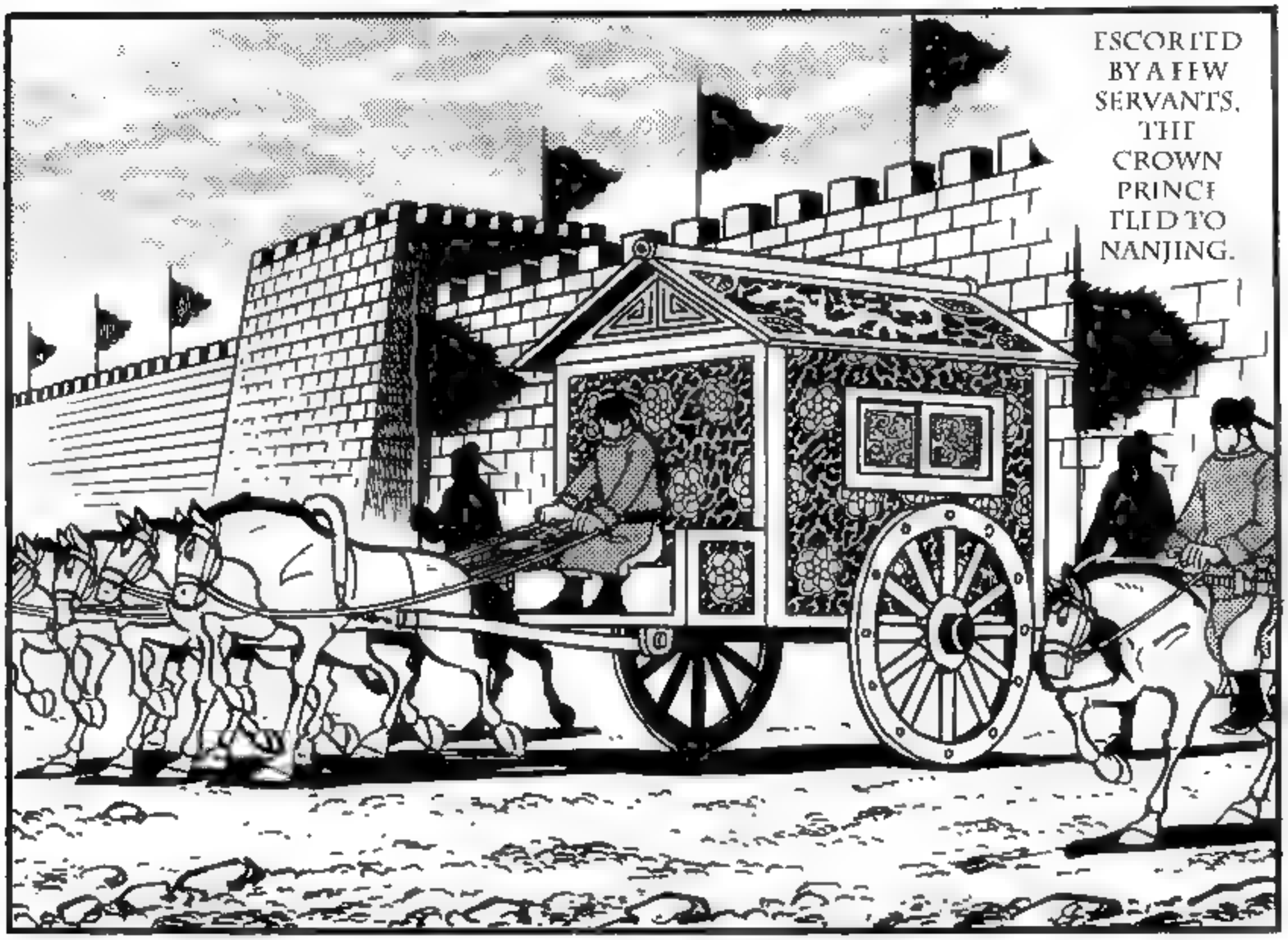
FINE, I WILL LEAVE FOR NANJING AT ONCE.

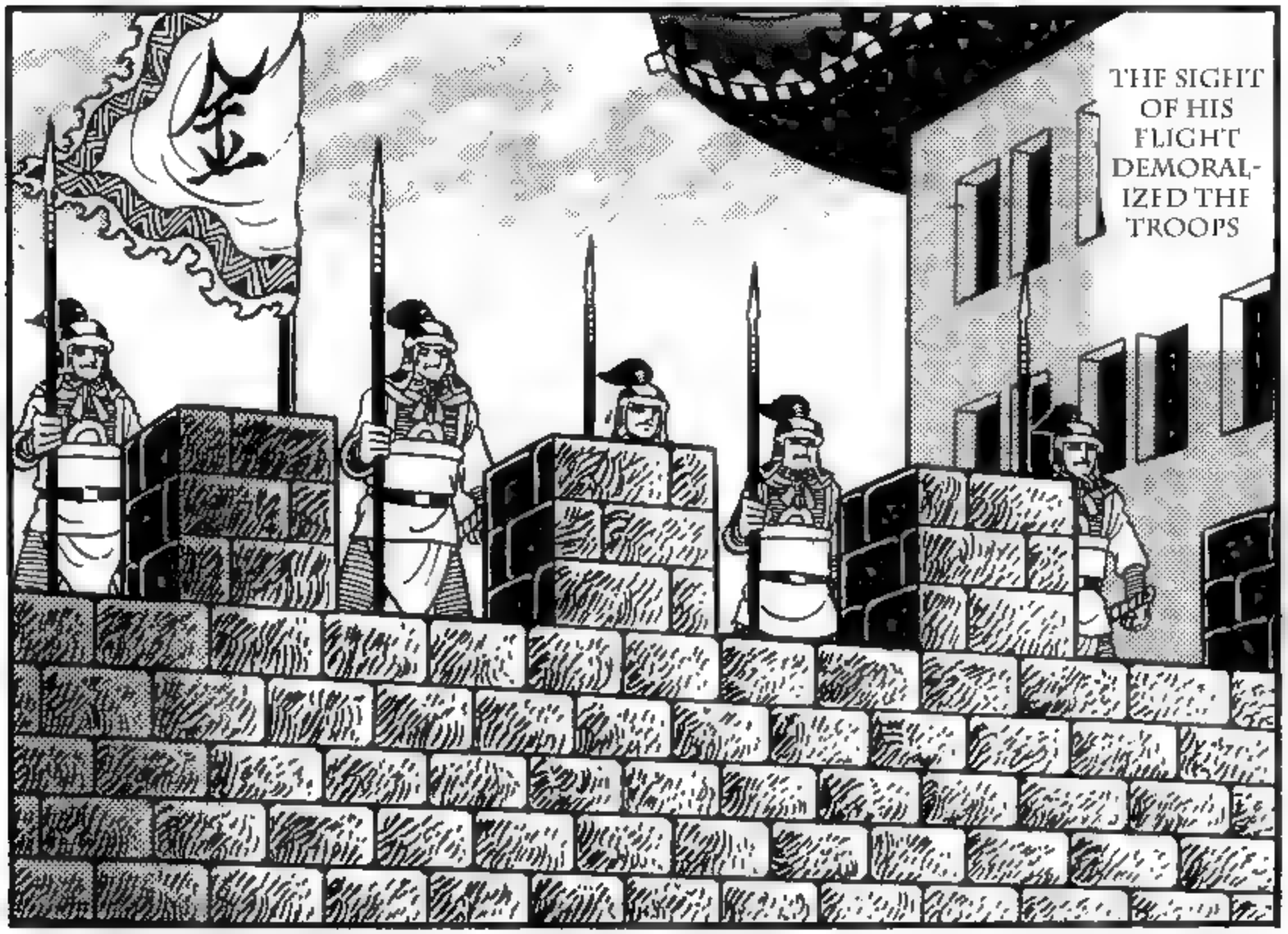
NO, I HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO NANJING.

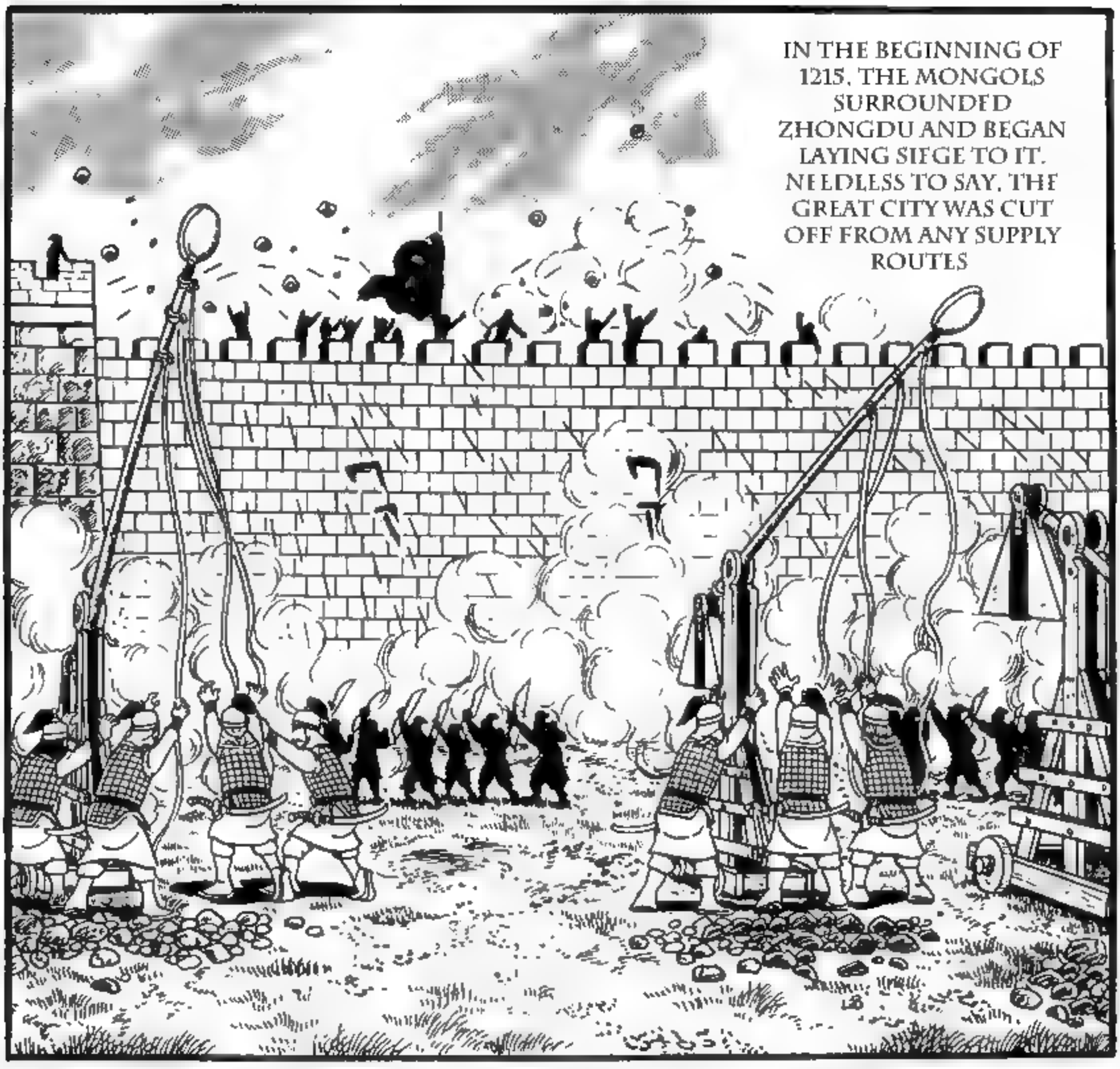
HOW CAN THE GARRISON FIGHT TO THE DEATH IF THEY SEE THE CITY'S MASTER FLEE FOR SAFETY? ZHONGDU IS A LARGE AND WELL-DEFENDED CITY. IT WILL NOT FALL EASILY. WE MUST STAND OUR GROUND HERE AND FIGHT!

SO YOU WILL HAVE TO DEFEND THE CITY IN HIS STEAD.

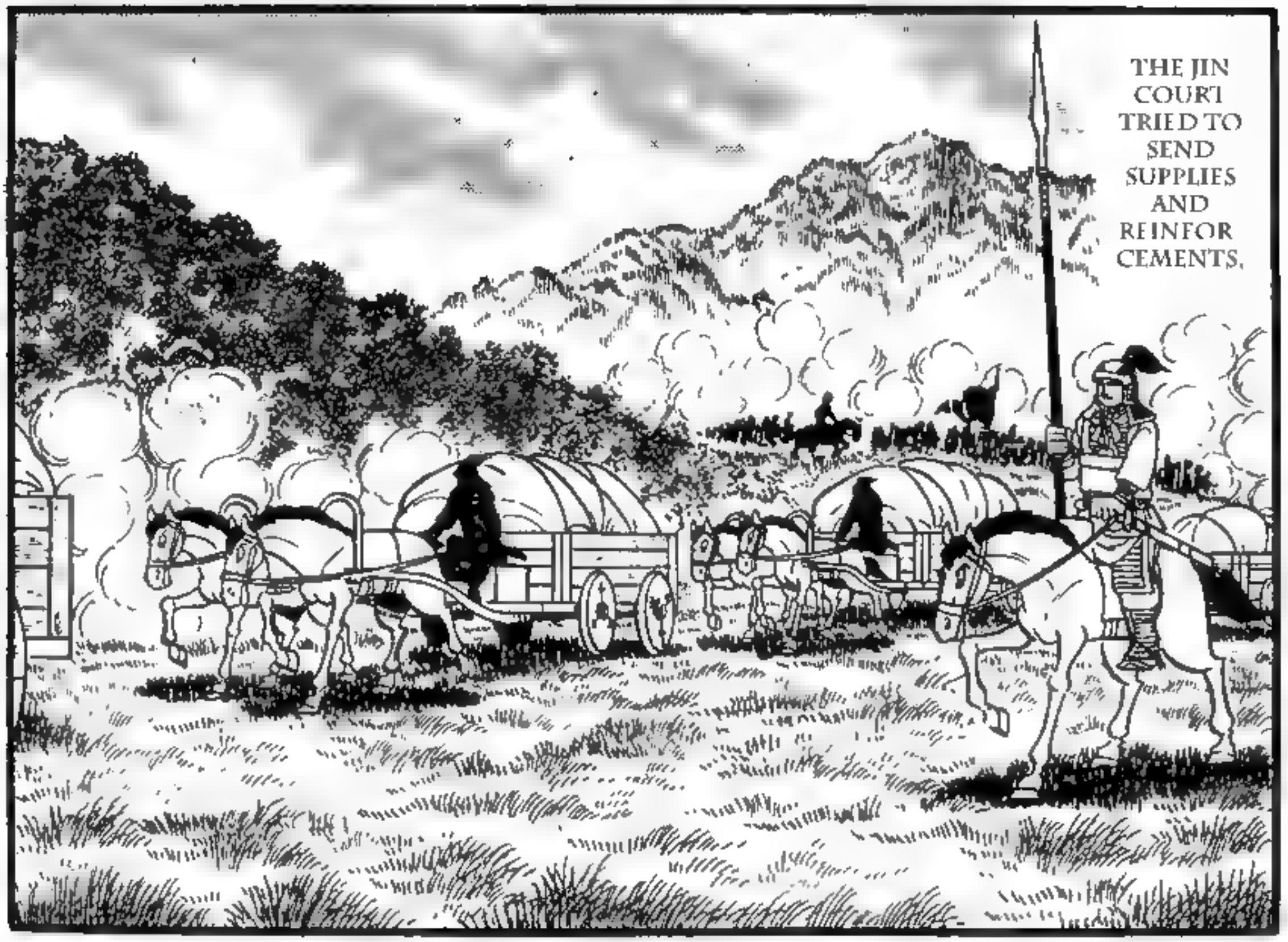
PRIME MINISTER, ZHONGDU IS A LONE ISLAND IN A SEA OF ENEMY TERRITORY. IT IS TOO DANGER-OUS FOR THE HEIR TO THE THRONE TO STAY HERE. WE WILL ESCORT HIM BACK TO NANJING,

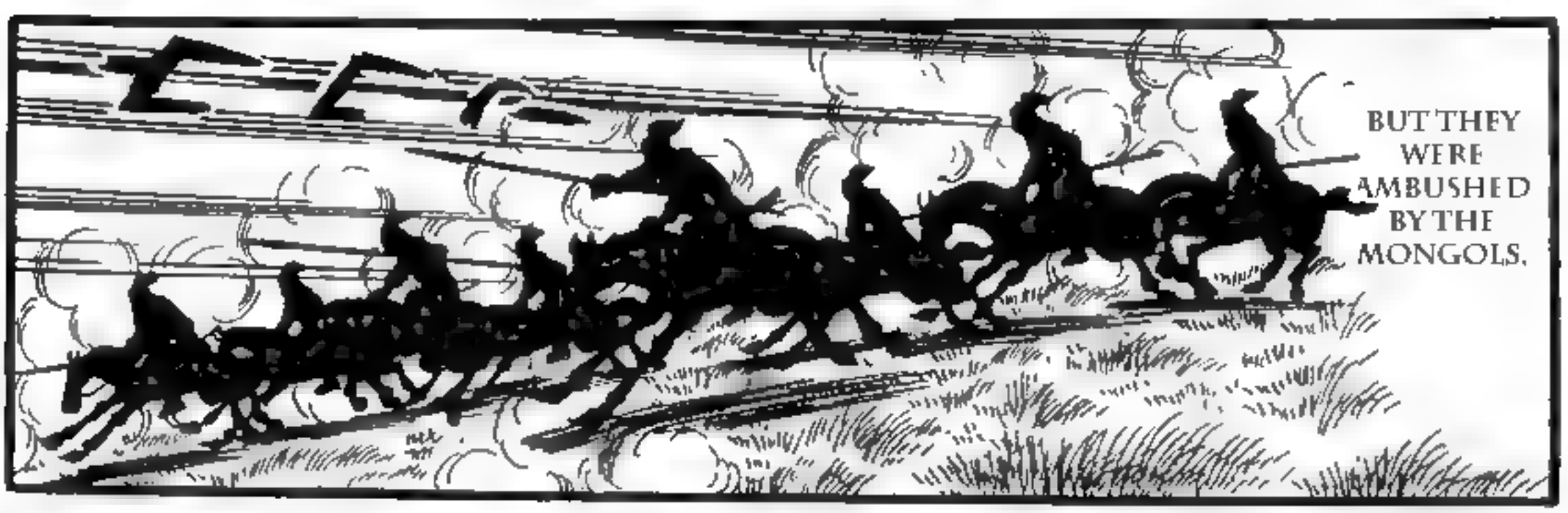

ESCORTED BY A FEW SERVANTS, THE CROWN PRINCE FLED TO NANJING.

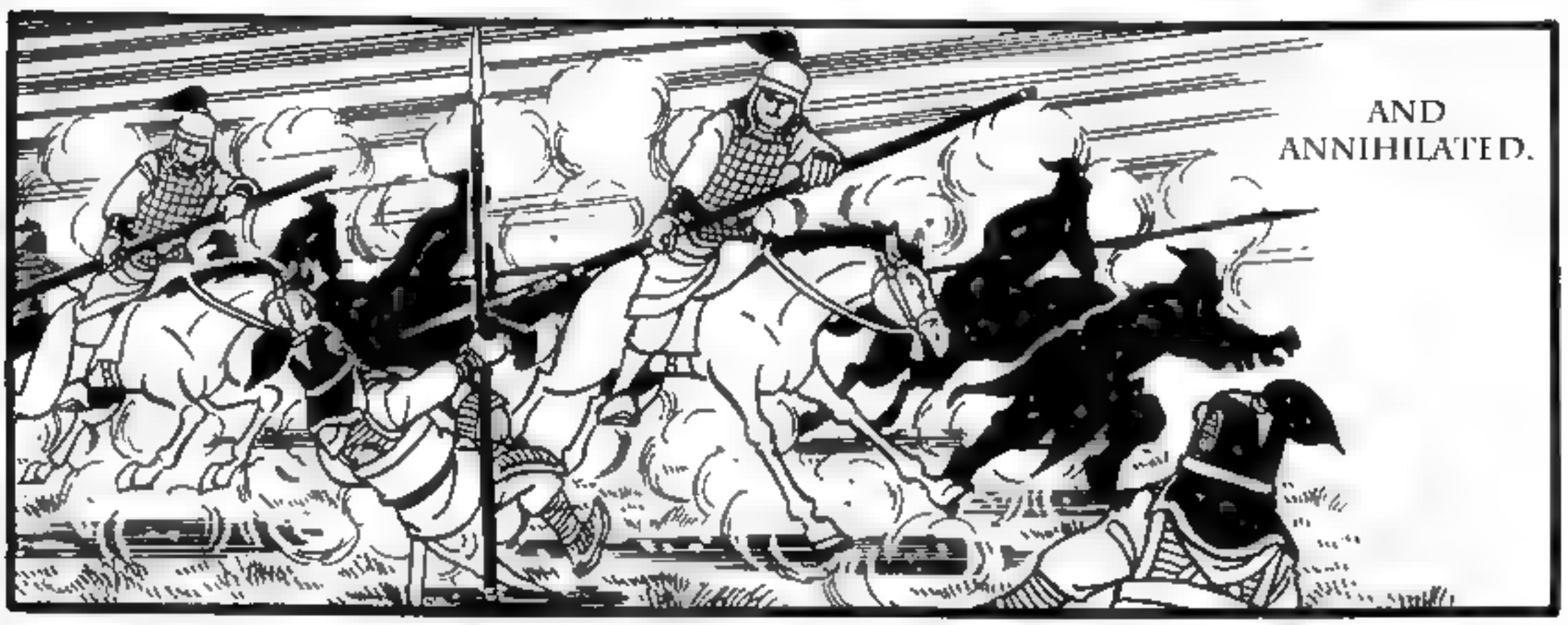

THE SIGHT OF HIS FLIGHT DEMORAL-IZED THE TROOPS


IN THE BEGINNING OF 1215, THE MONGOLS SURROUNDED ZHONGDU AND BEGAN LAYING SIEGE TO IT. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE GREAT CITY WAS CUT OFF FROM ANY SUPPLY ROUTES

ZHONGDU DID NOT HAVE LARGE ENOUGH STORES OF FOOD FOR ITS LARGE POPULACE AND GARRISON. ALREADY 3 MONTHS INTO THE SIEGE, THE SOLDIERS SHOWED SIGNS OF MALNUTRITION


THE JIN COURT TRIED TO SEND SUPPLIES AND REINFOR CEMENTS.


BUT THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY THE MONGOLS.


AND ANNIHILATED.

BY MAY OF 1215, FOOD HAD RUN OUT AND THE GARRISON WERE REDUCED TO EATING CORPSES.

I CANNOT BEAR MYSELF TO ASK THESE BRAVE MEN TO RESIST ANY LONGER. SURRENDER OR DIE FIGHTING, THE CHOICE IS YOURS, GENERAL.

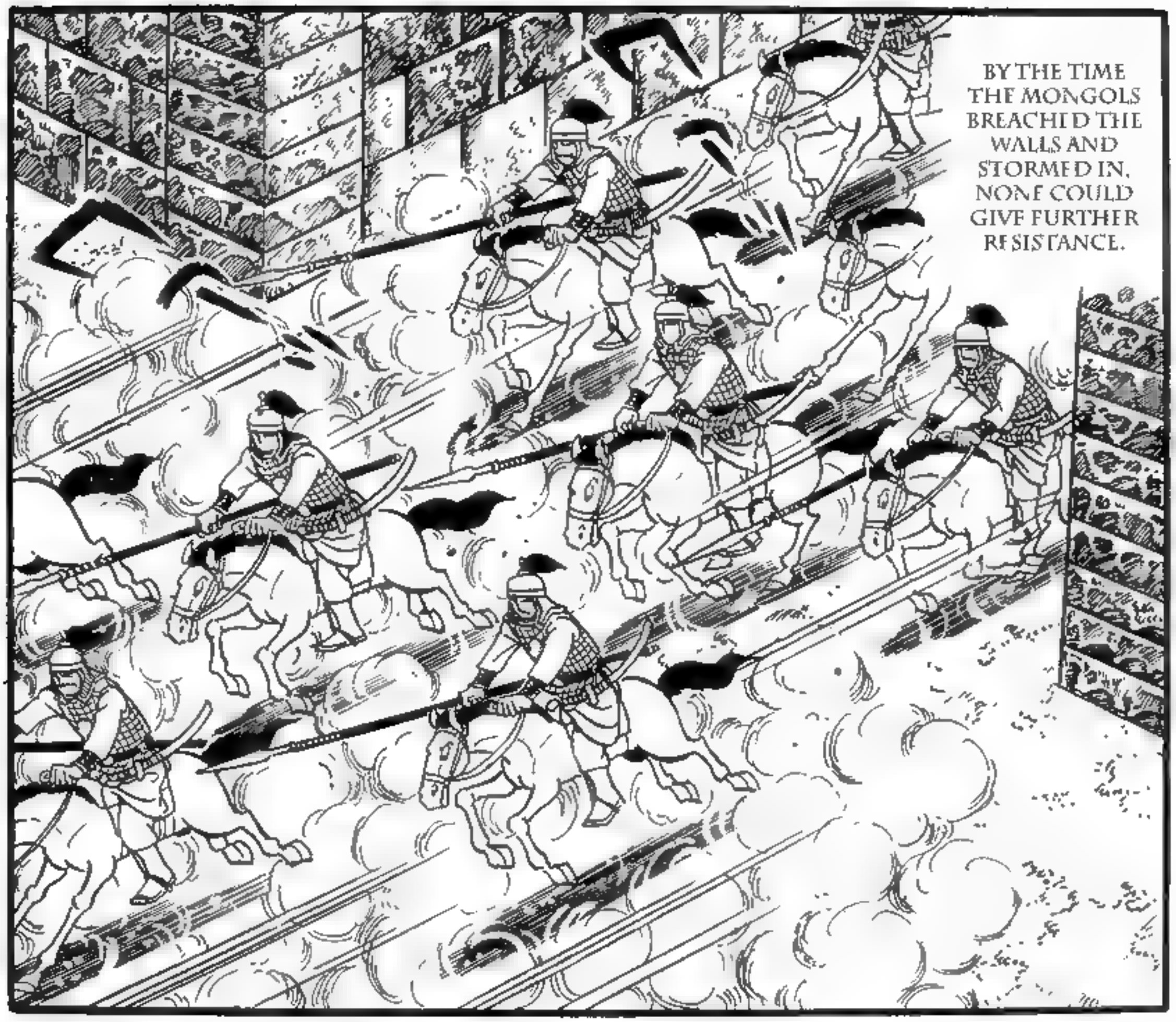
SURELY, WE ARE ALL IN LIVING HELL.

HAVING FAILED MY DUTIES, I DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO FACE THE EMPEROR AGAIN. I WILL ATONE MY SINS WITH MY DEATH.

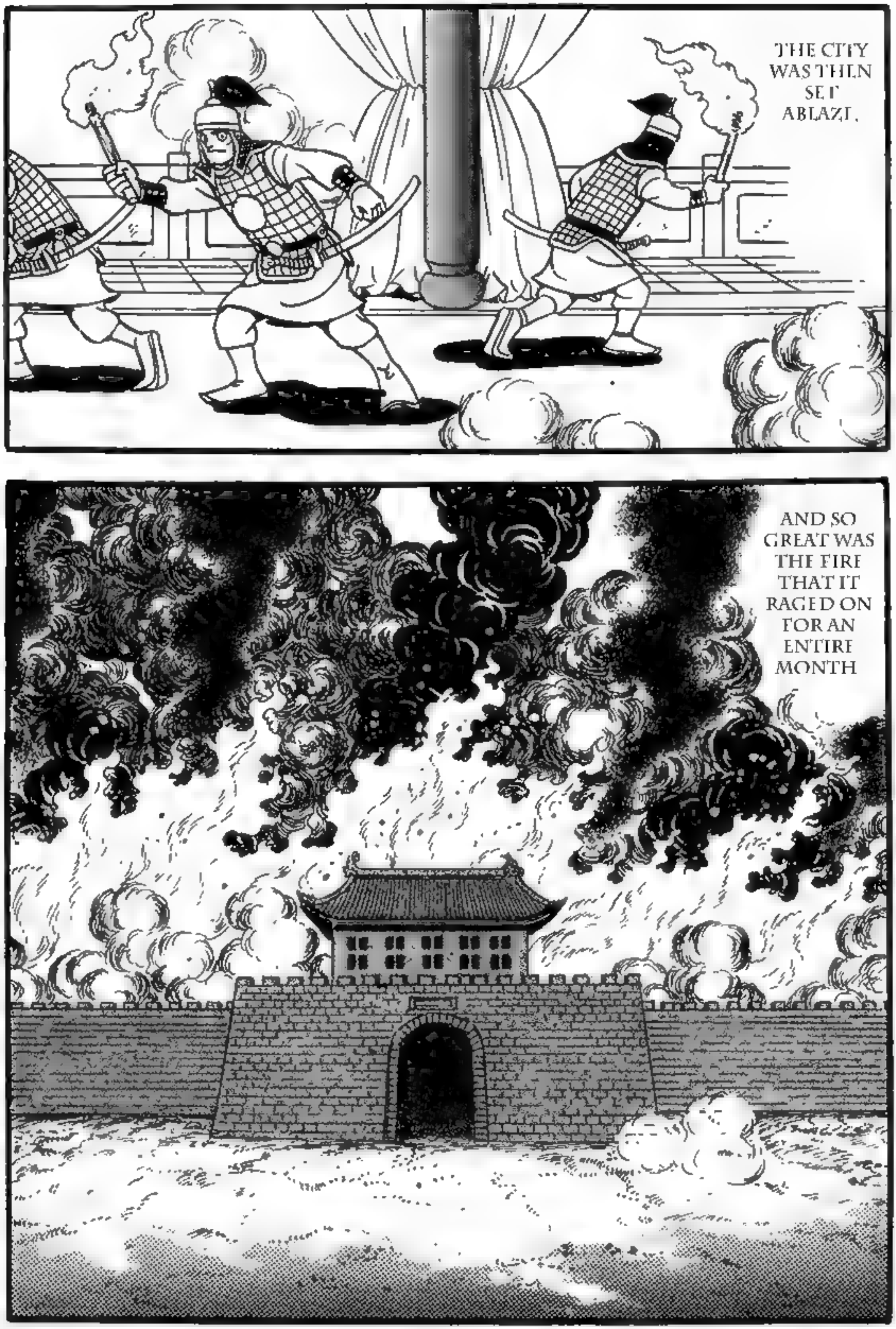
WHAT WILL YOU DO, PRIME MINISTER?

ゴクッ

THE PRIME MINISTER COMMITTED SUICIDE BY DRINKING POISON.


BY THE TIME THE MONGOLS BREACHED THE WALLS AND STORMED IN, NONE COULD GIVE FURTHER RESISTANCE.

THE MONGOLS PLUNDERED UNTOLD AMOUNTS OF WEALTH FROM THE FORMER JIN CAPITAL.


THE CITY WAS THEN SET ABLAZE.
AND SO GREAT WAS THE FIRE THAT IT RAGED ON FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH

ALONG WITH IMMENSE MATERIAL WEALTH,

THE MONGOLS HAD CAPTURED ALL KINDS OF SPECIALISTS. DOCTORS, ASTRONOMERS, ENGINEERS, ARTISANS, ETC. .

I AM ILA CHUZAI AND 26 YEARS OF AGE.

STATE YOUR NAME AND AGE.

NO, I STAVED OFF MY HUNGER BY EATING PLANT ROOTS SPRINKLED WITH SALT.

I HEARD ZHONGDU'S PEOPLE WERE REDUCED TO CANNIBALISM TO SURVIVE. WAS THAT THE CASE FOR YOU AS WELL?

*ILA CHUZAI IS THE DIRECT TRANSCRIPTION FROM HIS KHITAN NAME. THE MORE COMMONLY KNOWN SPELLING, "YELU CHUCAI," IS THE RESULT OF TRANSCRIBING FROM KHITAN > CHINESE > ENGLISH

FOR 60 DAYS, KHAN.

FOR HOW LONG?

YES.

YOU SURVIVED ON ROOTS ALONE FOR 60 DAYS?

I AM A CONFUCIAN SCHOLAR WELL VERSED IN ASTRONOMY, GEOGRAPHY, MEDICINE, AND DIVINATION.

AND WHAT IS YOUR SPECIALTY?

YOU FLATTER ME, KHAN.

A SCHOLAR WITH A HARDY CONSITUTION AND UNYIELDING PERSERVERANCE...

I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU. YOU WILL STAY BY MY SIDE AND GIVE ME COUNSEL WHEN NEEDED.

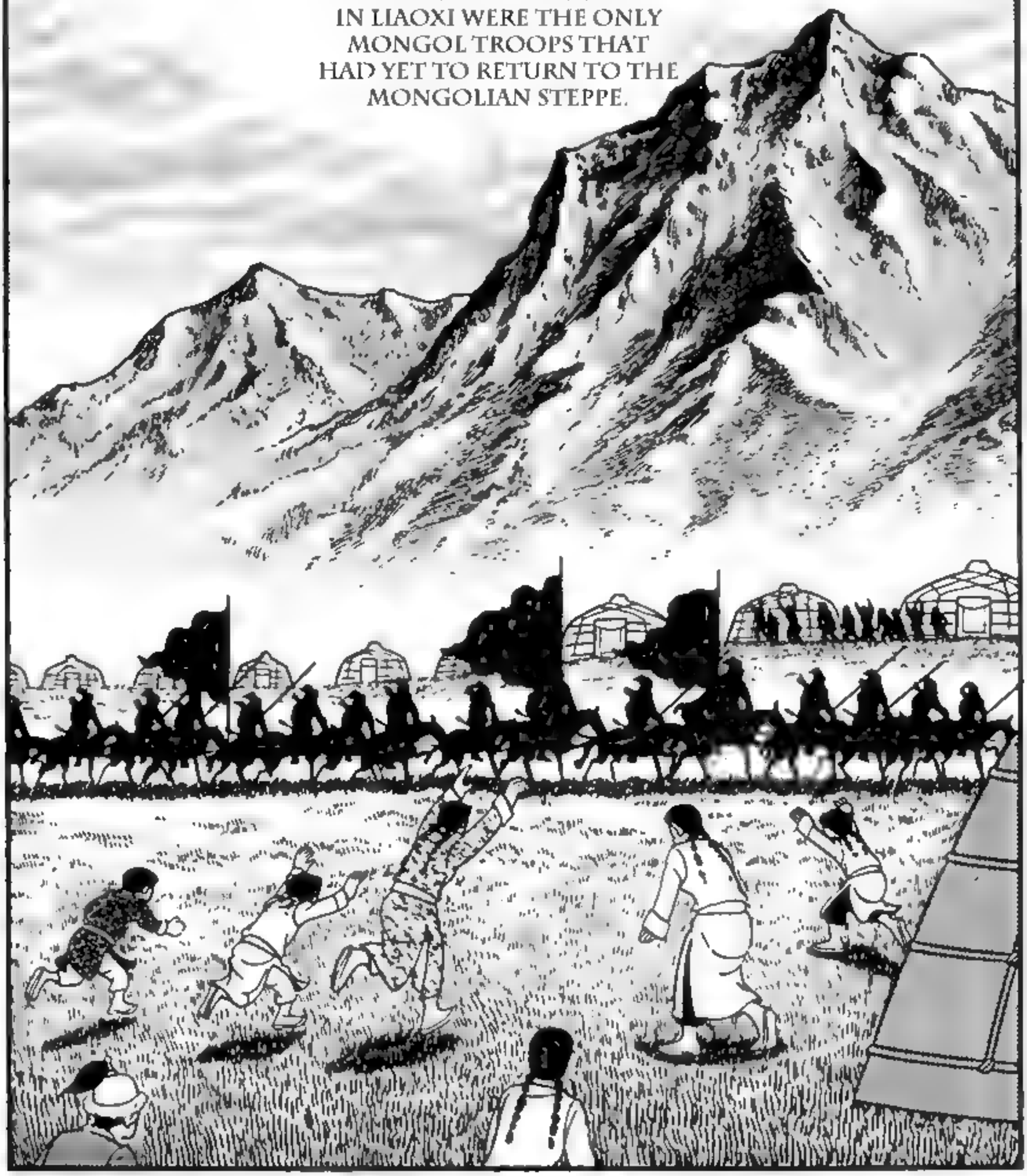
YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.

THIS KHITAN SCHOLAR WOULD SOON BECOME ONE OF CHINGGIS KHAN S MOST VALUED ADVISERS

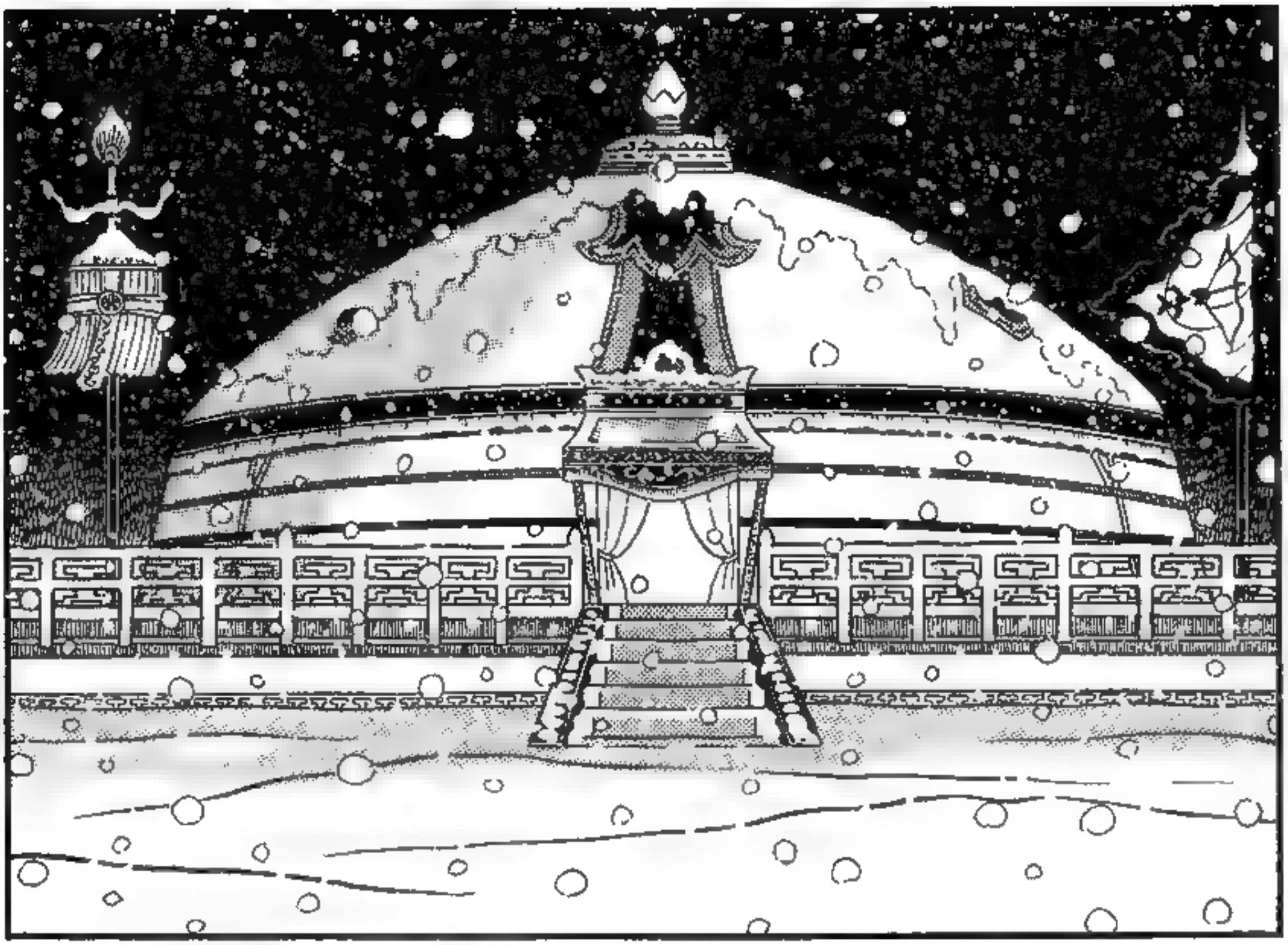
CHINGGIS KHAN SORTED ALL THE SPECIALISTS HE HAD CAPTURED AND ASSIGNED THEM TO APPROPRIATE ROLES.

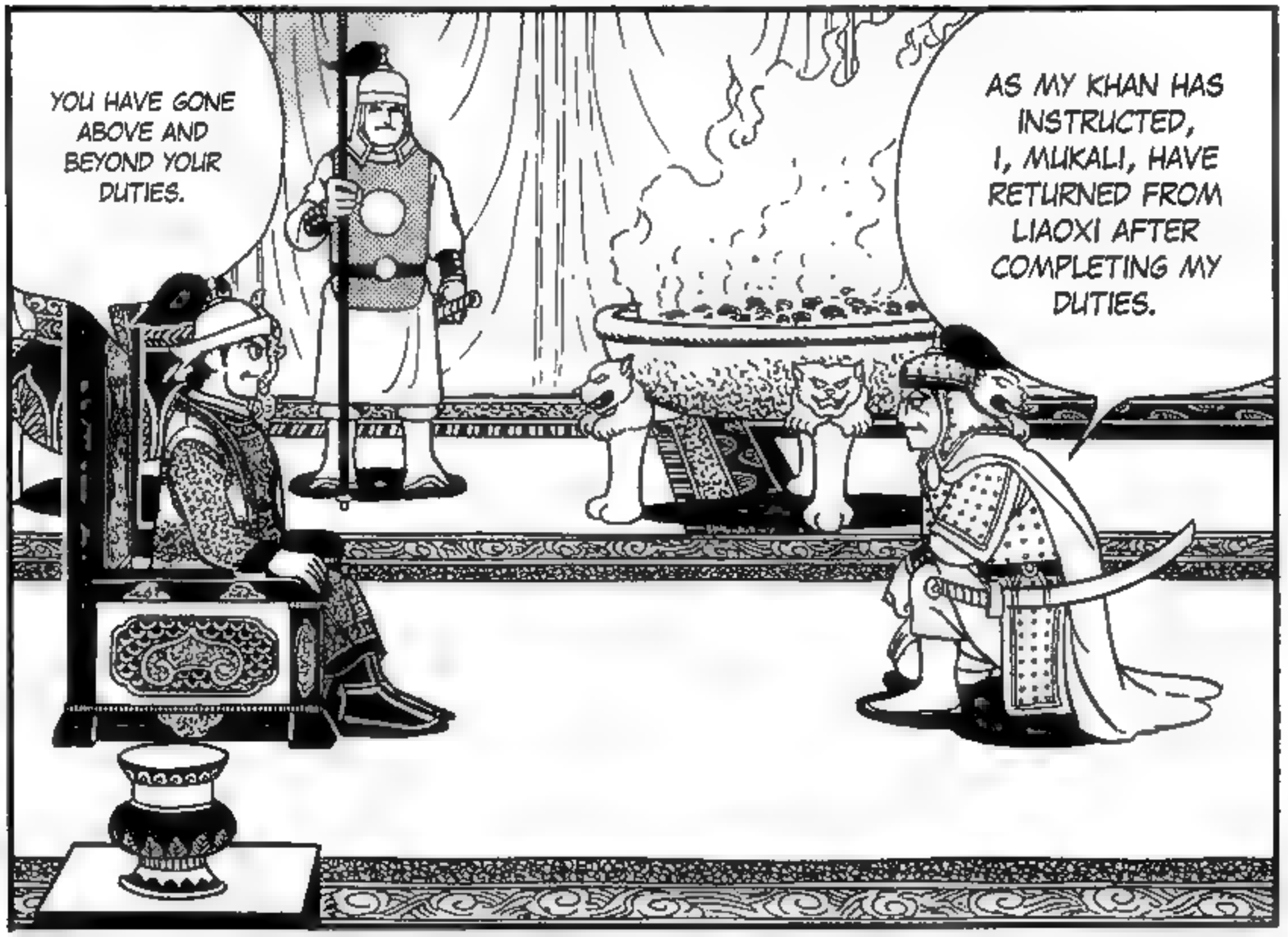
DUE TO THIS, MONGOL WAYS BECAME MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN EVER.

IN 1216, CHINGGIS KHAN RETURNED TO BURKHAN-KALDUN. SINCE STARTING THE JIN CAMPAIGN, IT HAD BEEN 5 YEARS BEFORE HE RETURNED AT LAST TO MONGOLIA. MUKALI'S ARMY IN LIAOXI WERE THE ONLY MONGOL TROOPS THAT HAD YET TO RETURN TO THE MONGOLIAN STEPPE.



Western Campaign




YOU HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND YOUR DUTIES.
AS MY KHAN HAS INSTRUCTED, I, MUKALI, HAVE RETURNED FROM LIAOXI AFTER COMPLETING MY DUTIES.

YES.

NOT ONLY HAVE YOU PACIFIED LIAOXI, BUT YOU CONQUERED LIAODONG AND EVEN CAPTURED THE JIN NORTHERN CAPITAL, HUINING.

YES, KHAN.

FOR YOUR UNPARALLELED SUCCESSES AGAINST THE JIN, I PLACE YOU IN CHARGE OF LAYING SIEGE TO JIN'S NEW CAPITAL, NANJING.

FROM TODAY FORTH, YOU ARE THE SUPREME COMMANDER IN CHARGE OF THE JIN CAMPAIGN. ONCE YOU HAVE CONQUERED THE JIN, YOU WILL BE ITS VICEROY AND ADMINISTER ITS FORMER LANDS.

HAVING PLACED JIN IN YOUR CAPABLE HEADS, I AM THINKING OF CAM-PAIGNING IN THE WEST.

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.

KUCHLUG, A SON OF THE FORMER NAIMAN KHAN, HAS FLED TO KARA-KHITAI AFTER WE SUBDUED THE NAIMANS. THROUGH A ROYAL MARRIAGE WITH THE KHITAN GURKHAN, HE HAS SINCE COME TO CONTROL MOST OF THE KHANATE.

WESTERN XIA'S LANDS MAY BE IMPORTANT FOR CONTROLLING TRADE WITH THE FAR WEST, BUT THAT IS ONLY IF ITS WESTERN NEIGHBOUR, THE KARA-KHITAI KHANATE, REMAINS FRIENDLY.

THE WEST?

YES, FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

I SEE...

HENCE, AS OF NOW, THE KARA-KHITAI IS HOSTILE TO US AND IS UNWILLING TO MAKE FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

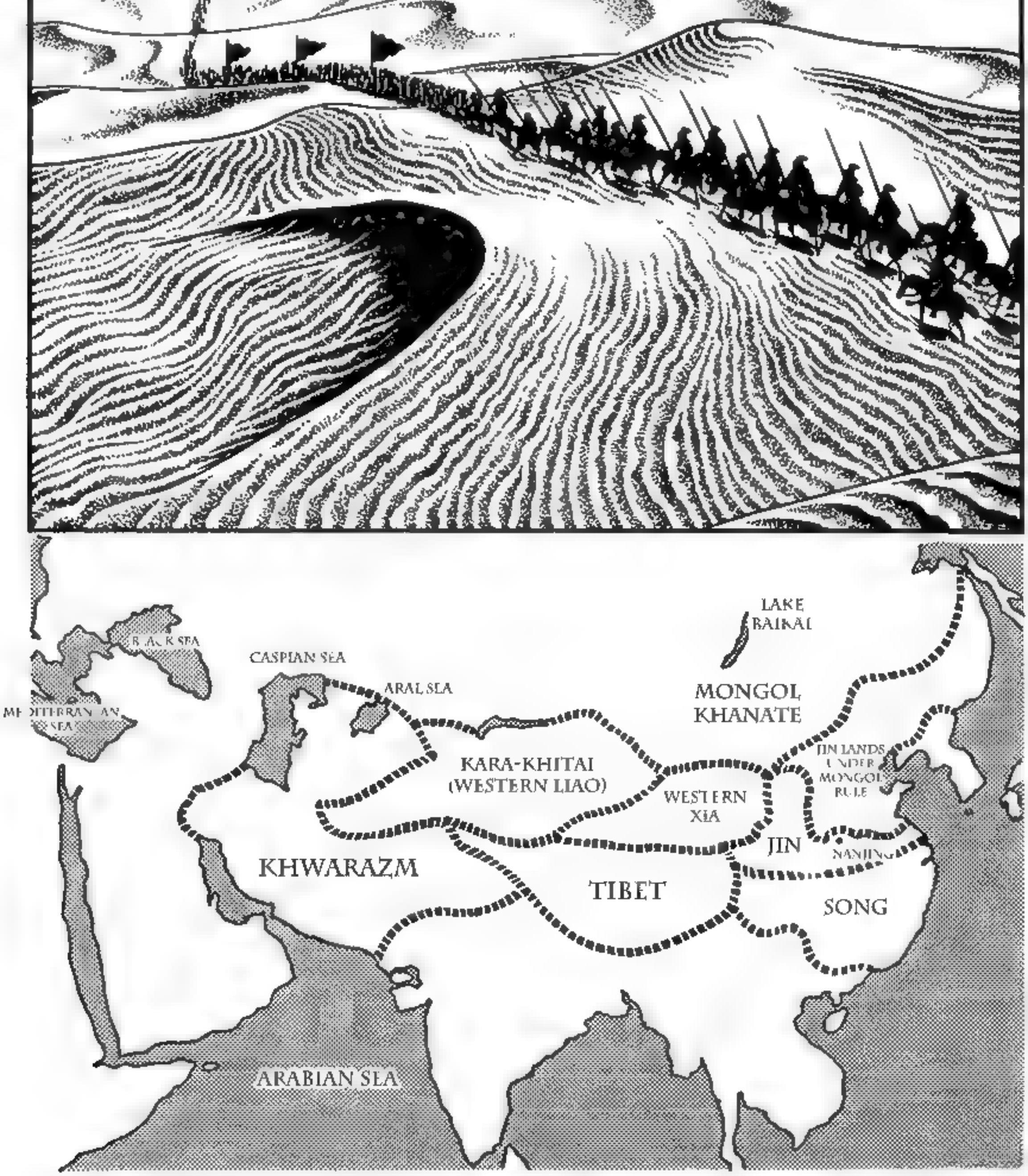
FURTHERMORE, I HEAR THERE IS A RICH AND CULTURED EMPIRE TO THE WEST OF KARA-KHITAI KNOWN AS KHWARAZM. EXPANDING OUR TRADE THERE WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS THE KARA-KHITAI SITS BETWEEN US AS AN ENEMY.

YES, AND YOURS AS WELL.

THEN MAY THE HEAVENS BRING SUCCESS UPON YOUR CAMPAIGN.

WHILE MUKALI LED AN ARMY OF 23,000 SOUTH TO NANJING,

CHINGGIS KHAN AND HIS ARMY SET OFF ON A WESTERN CAMPAIGN, ACCOMPANIED BY SOPHISTICATED SIEGE ENGINEERS CAPTURED FROM JIN.



WHAT IS IT?

I BRING A REPORT, CHINGGIS KHAN!

WHAT!?

THE TANGUT CITY HAS BEEN COMPLETELY EVACUATED.

YES.

LET US MAKE HASTE, MEN!

NOT A SINGLE PERSON IN SIGHT...

ALTHOUGH YOUR NOMINAL VASSALS, IT SEEMS THE WESTERN XIA PEOPLE FLED IN A HURRY UPON HEARING YOUR COMING.

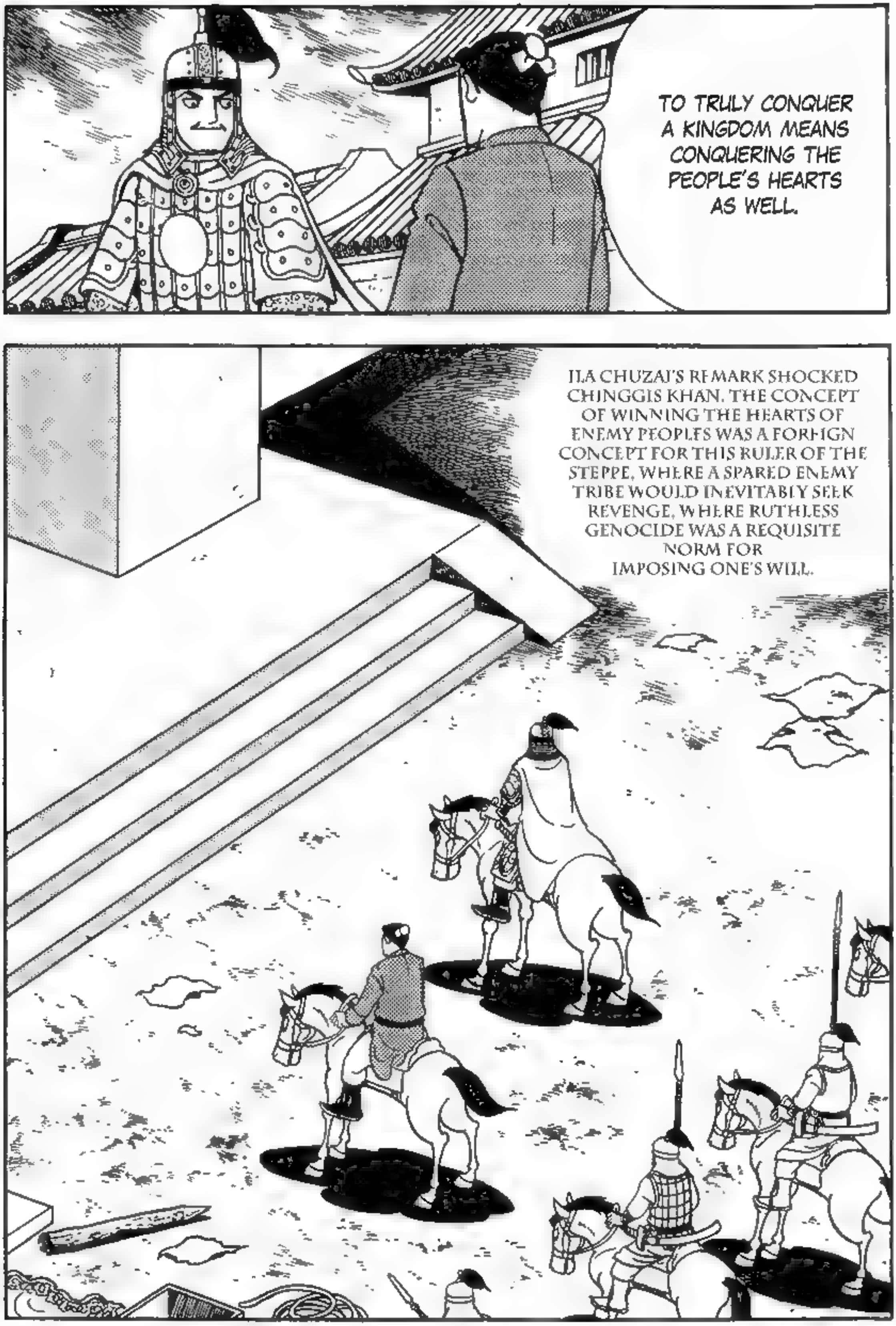
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS, ILA CHUZAI?

WHAT?

THAT IS HARDLY THE CASE, CHINGGIS KHAN.

THEY FLED? HAHAHA! SO I HAVE CONQUERED WESTERN XIA WITHOUT LOSING A SINGLE SOLDIER.

ONCE YOUR ARMY LEAVES, THE PEOPLE WILL MOVE BACK IN AND CONTINUE ON WITH THEIR LIVES AS BEFORE.


TO TRULY CONQUER A KINGDOM MEANS CONQUERING THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS AS WELL.
ILA CHUZAI'S REMARK SHOCKED CHINGGIS KHAN. THE CONCEPT OF WINNING THE HEARTS OF ENEMY PEOPLES WAS A FORHGN CONCEPT FOR THIS RULER OF THE STEPPE, WHERE A SPARED ENEMY TRIBE WOULD INEVITABLY SEEK REVENGE, WHERE RUTHLESS GENOCIDE WAS A REQUISITE NORM FOR IMPOSING ONE'S WILL.

WE'VE CAPTURED A WESTERN XIA CITY WITHOUT ANY EFFORT, BUT OUR GOAL IS KARA-KHITAI. THUS, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR MARCH WEST.

YES.

ILA CHUZAI, YOU MADE AN INTERESTING REMARK EARLIER DURING THE DAY. ABOUT HAVING TO CONQUER THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS TO CONQUER A KINGDOM, CORRECT?

THERE IS.

IS THERE A WAY TO WIN OVER THE SUBJECTS OF KARA-KHITAI THEN?

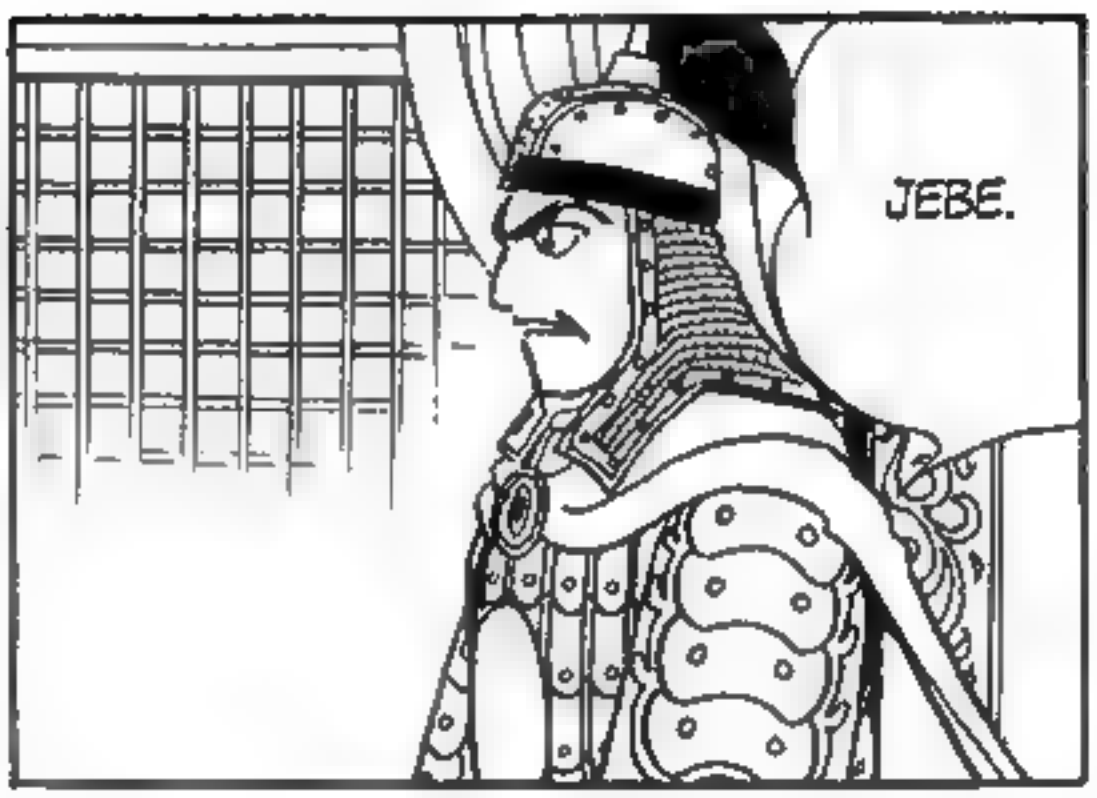
INTERESTING... YOU THINK THEIR DEVOTION IN GOD WILL CAUSE THEM TO BETRAY THEIR OWN RULER?

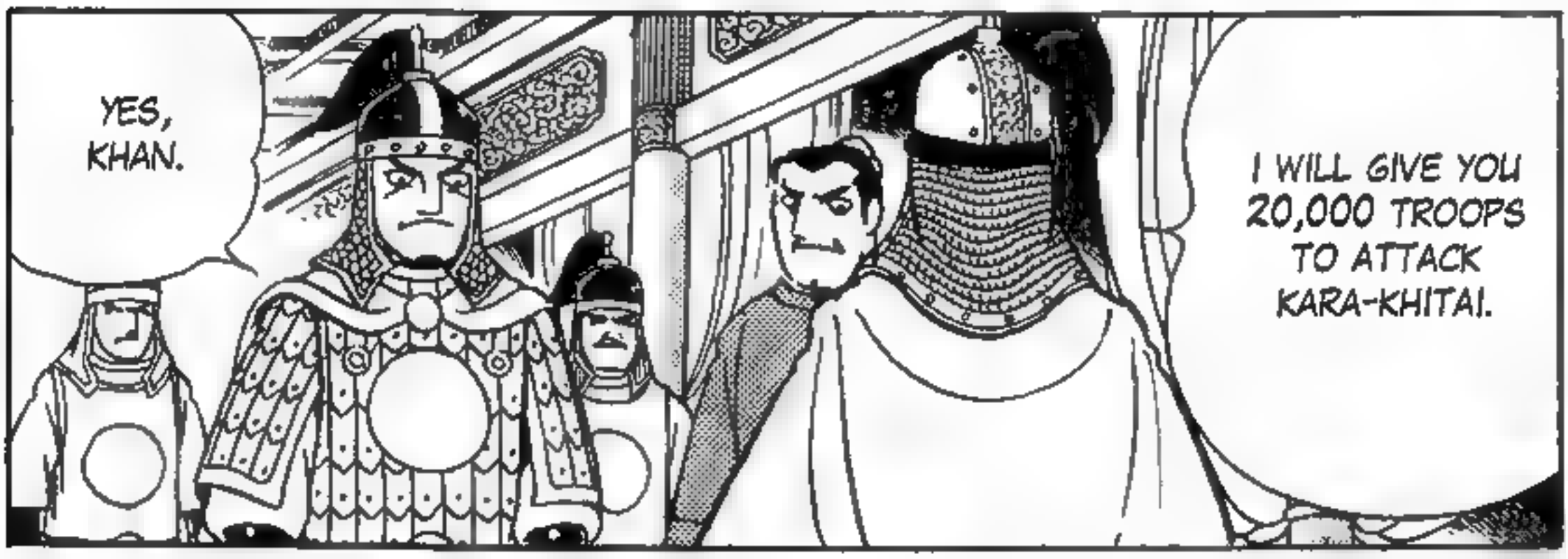
KUCHLUG IS A FORMER CHRISTIAN WHO CONVERTED TO BUDDHISM. HE IS QUITE DISFAVOURABLE TOWARDS ISLAM AND SUPPRESSES ANY ISLAMIC PRACTICES AMONG HIS SUJBECTS. THUS, PROMISE THE KARA-KHITAI PEOPLE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND YOU WILL WIN THEIR TRUST.

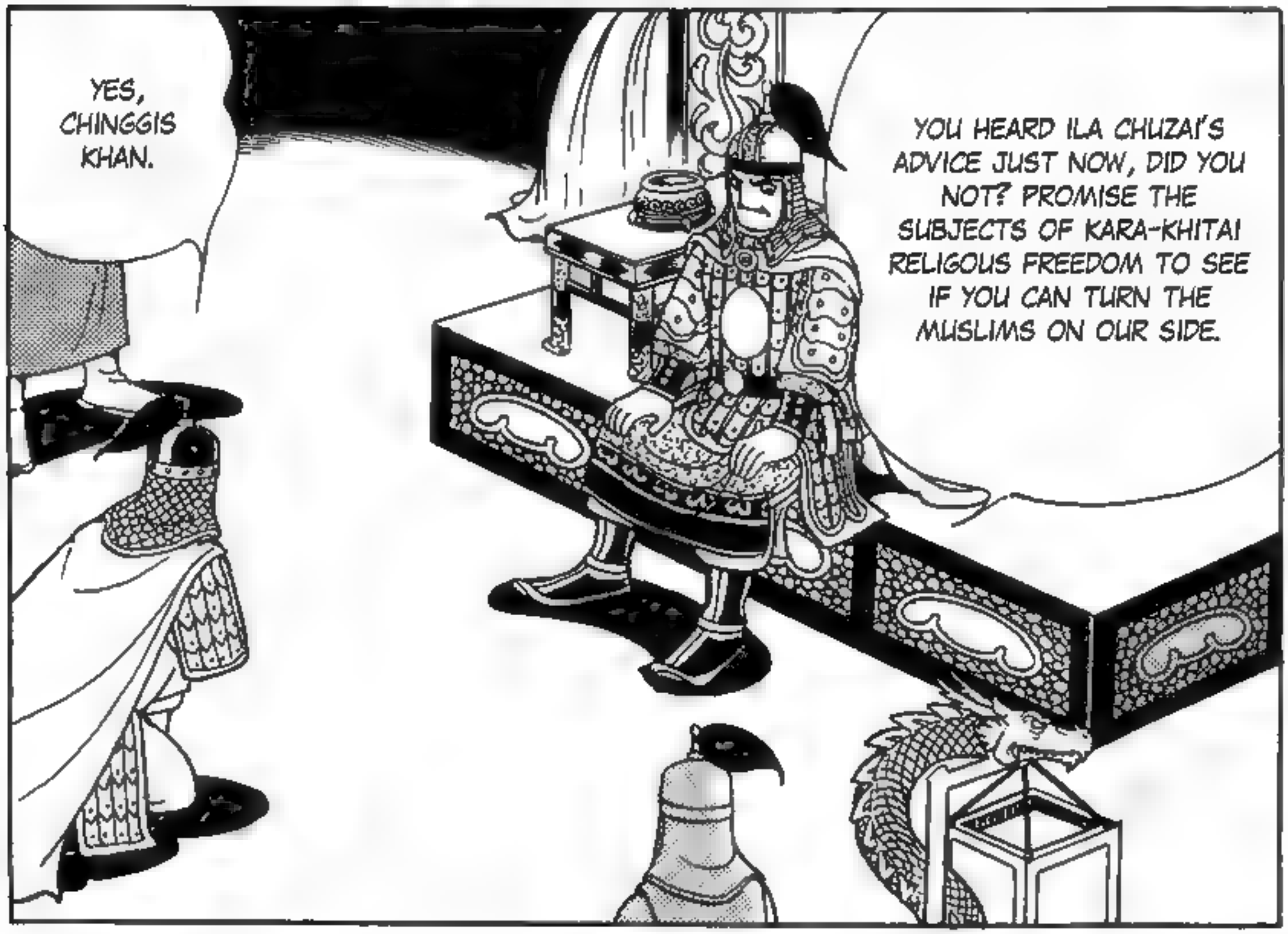
A GOOD POINT, INDEED.

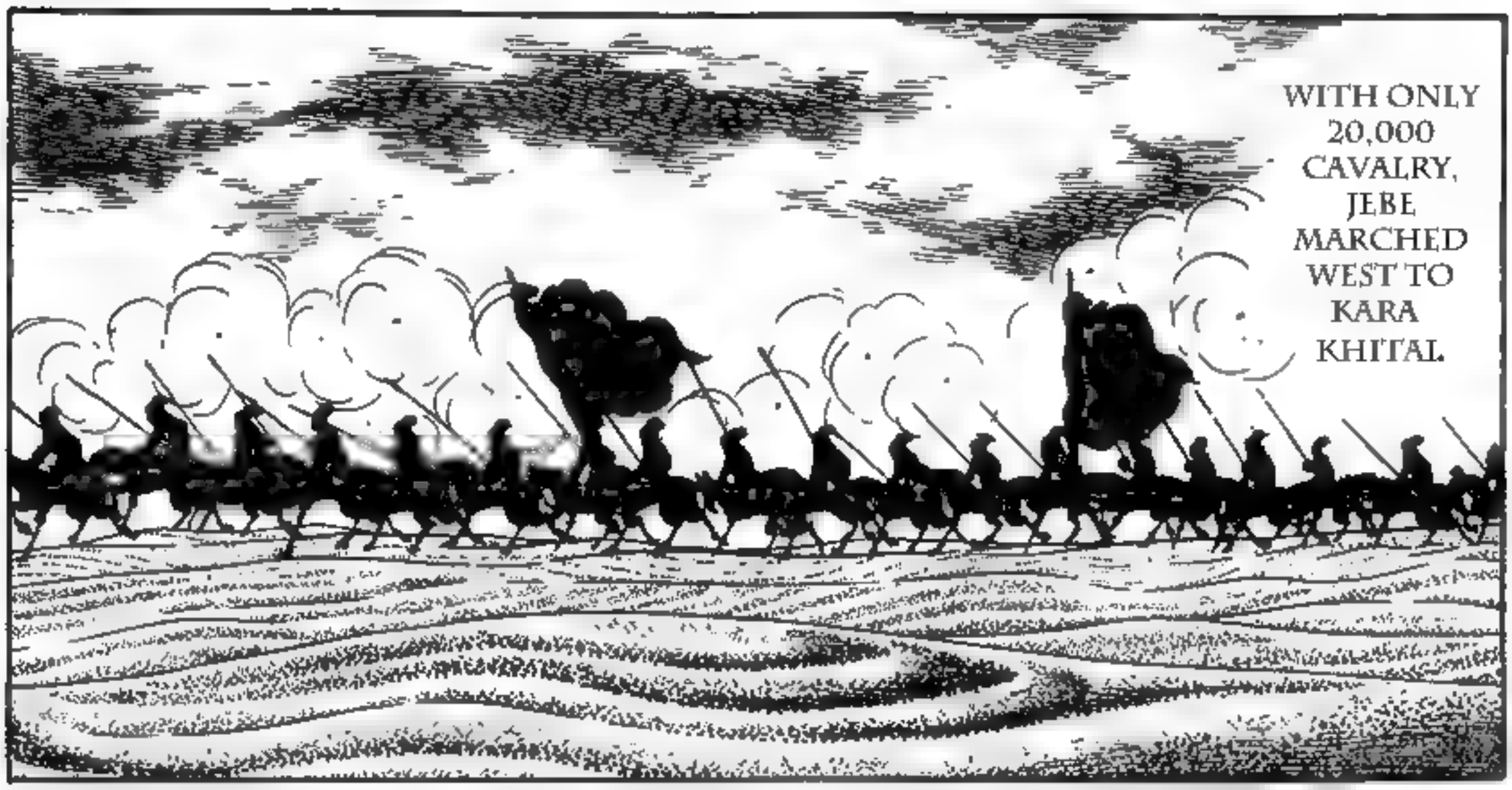
IF ANOTHER MAN FORCED YOU TO BETRAY YOUR WORSHIP OF THE ETERNAL BLUE SKY, WOULD YOU SO EASILY CHANGE YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS?

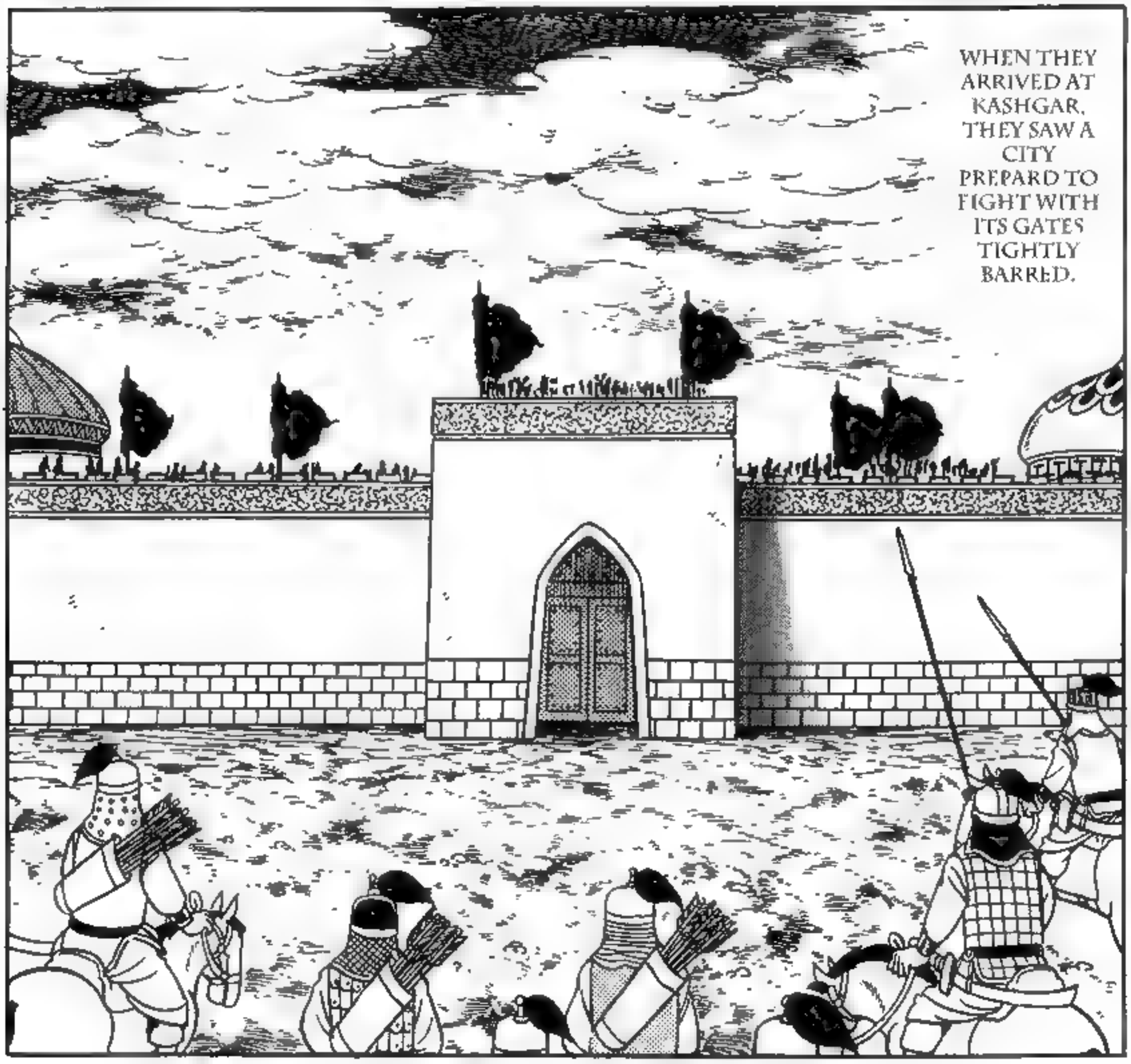
YES?


JEBE.

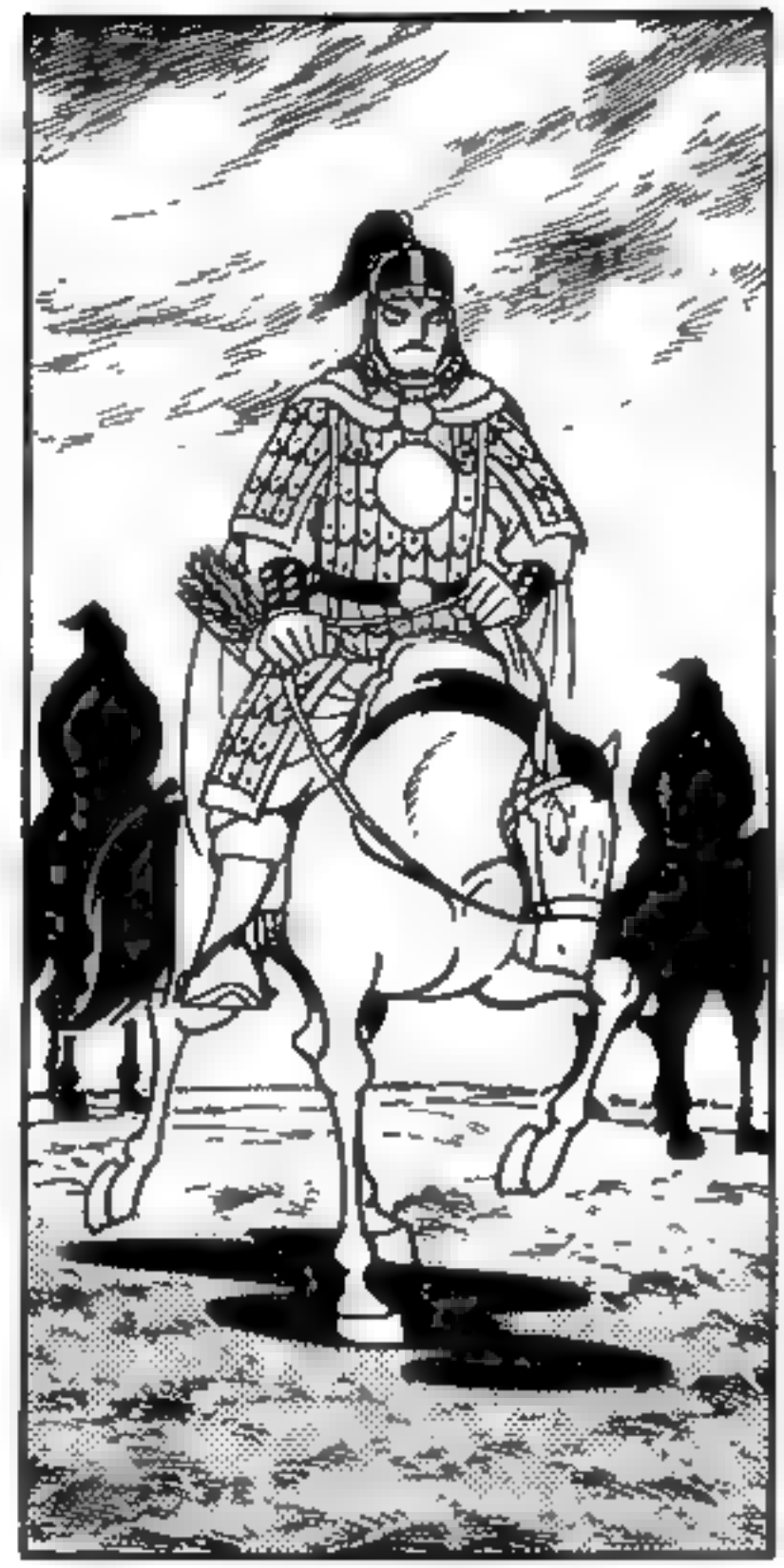

YES, KHAN.
I WILL GIVE YOU 20,000 TROOPS TO ATTACK KARA-KHITAI.

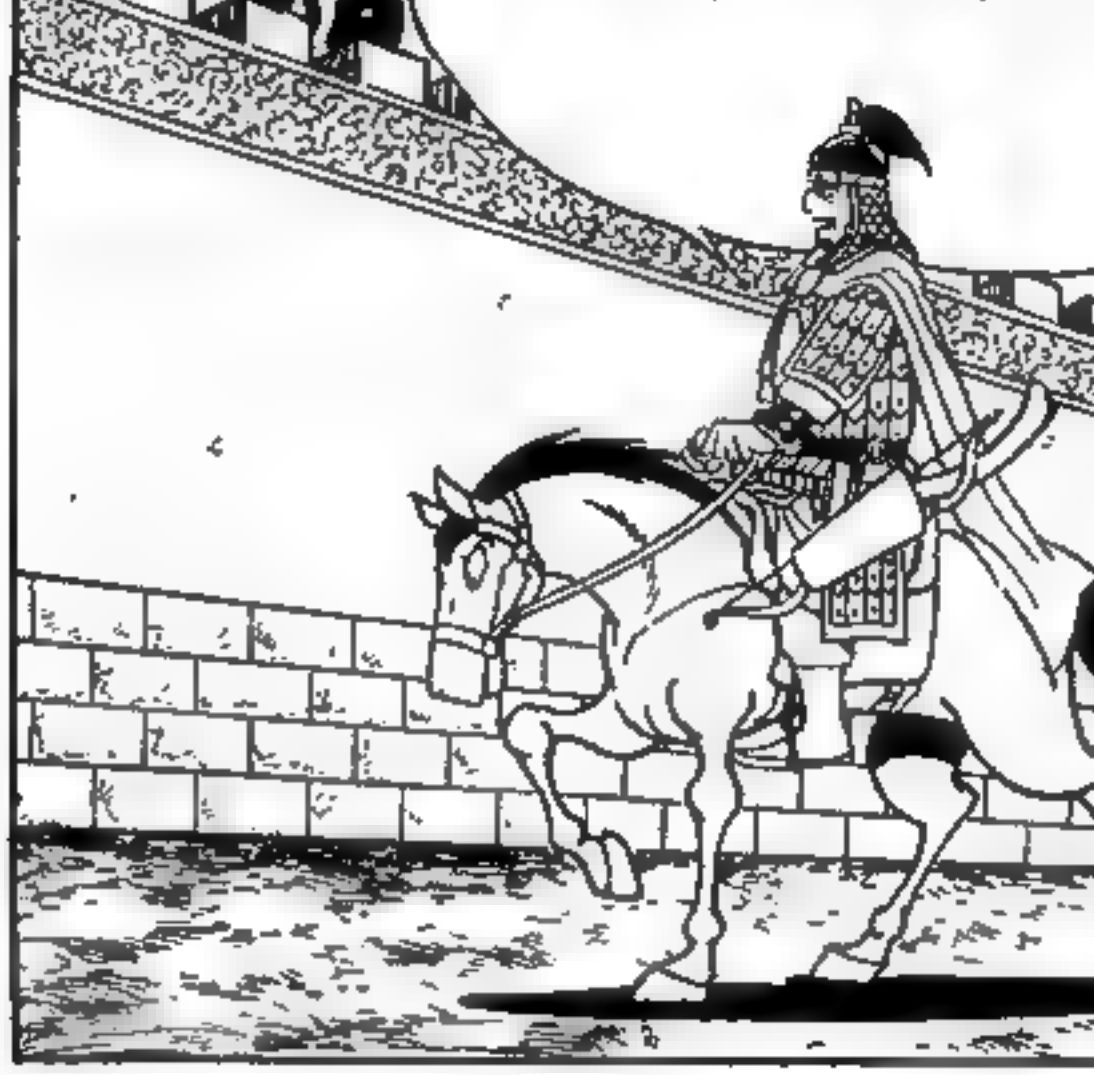

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN.
YOU HEARD ILA CHUZAI'S ADVICE JUST NOW, DID YOU NOT? PROMISE THE SUBJECTS OF KARA-KHITAI RELIGOUS FREEDOM TO SEE IF YOU CAN TURN THE MUSLIMS ON OUR SIDE.


WITH ONLY 20,000 CAVALRY, JEBE MARCHED WEST TO KARA KHITAI.

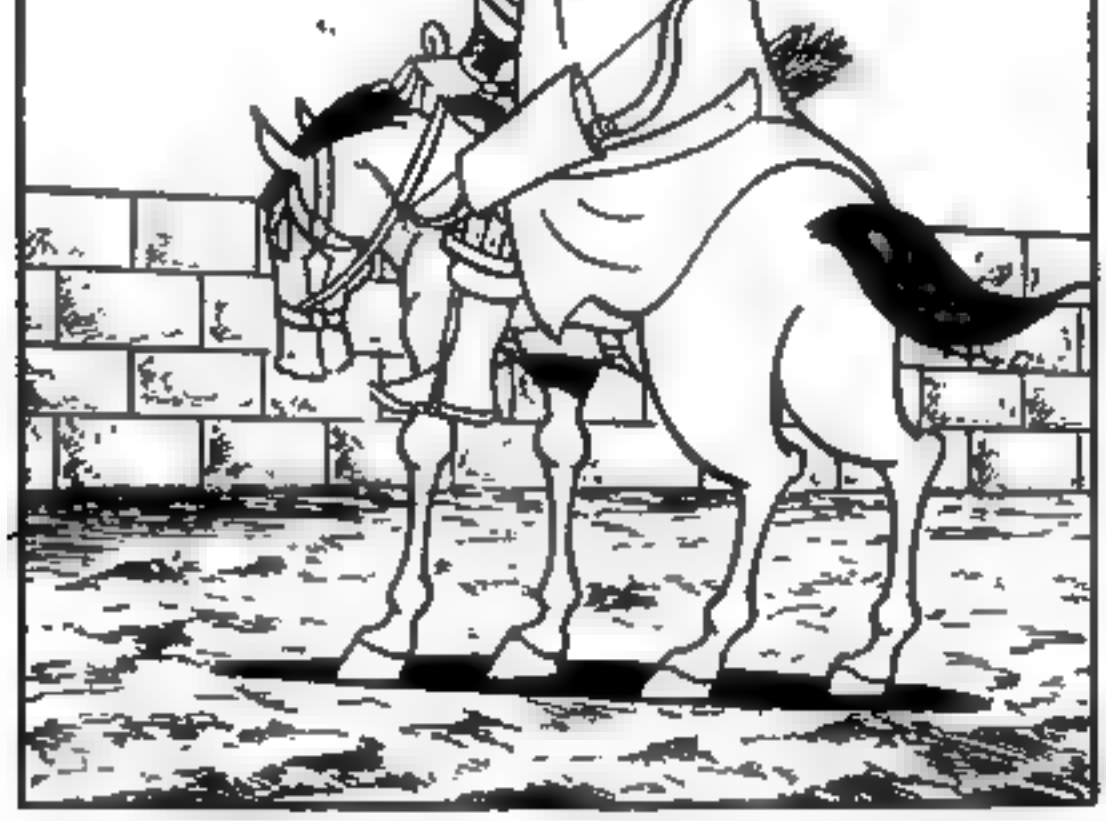

WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT KASHGAR, THEY SAW A CITY PREPARD TO FIGHT WITH ITS GATES TIGHTLY BARRED.

HEAR ME WELL, CITIZENS OF KASHGAR! WE HAVE NOT COME TO PUNISH THE INNOCENT PEOPLE OF KARA-KHITAI, BUT TO PUNISH KUCHLUG, WHO OPPRESSES HIS MUSLIM SUBJECTS!



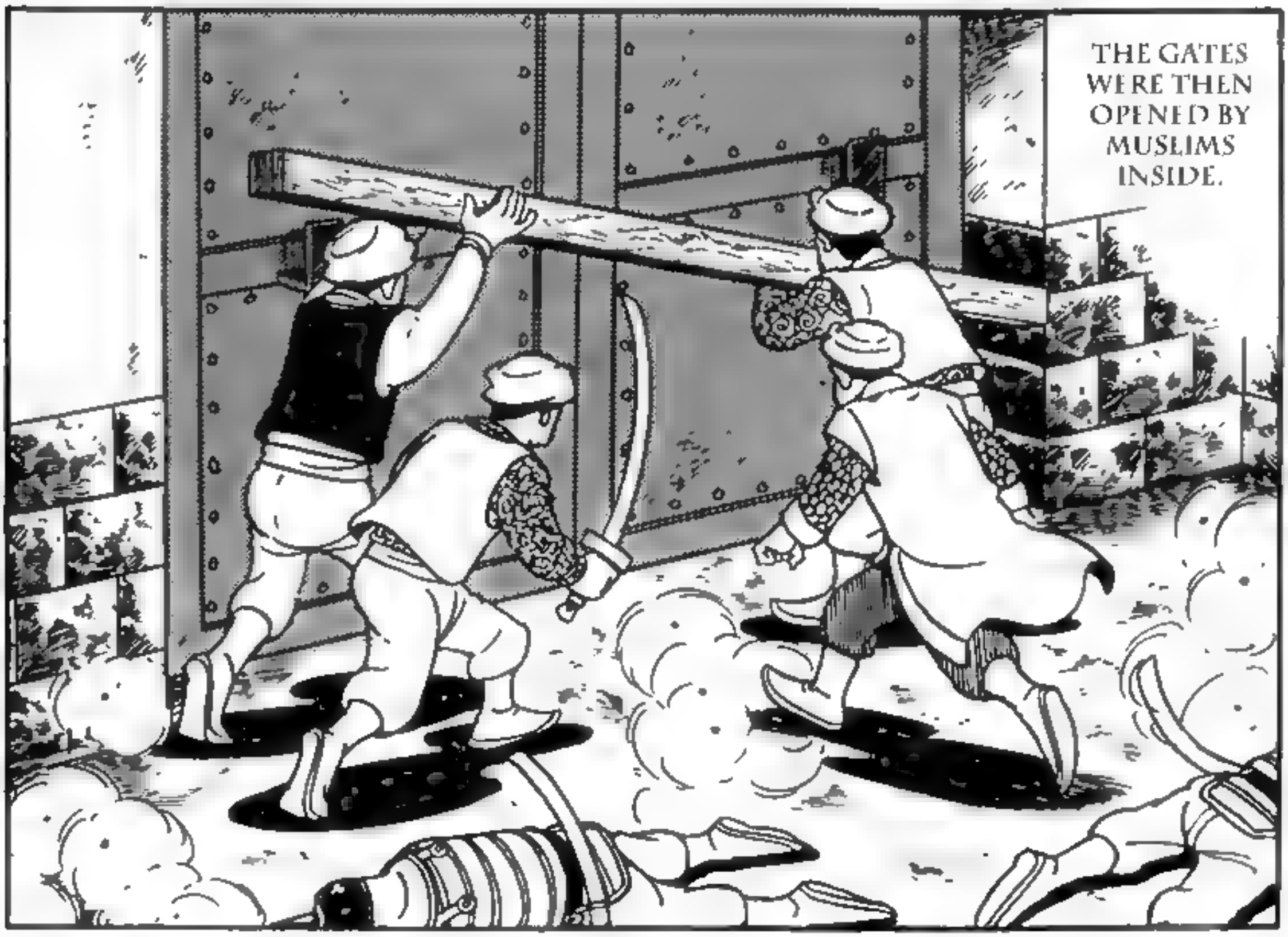


YES, UNDER MONGOL RULE, EVERY MAN IS FREE TO WORSHIP ANY RELIGION HE WISHES.



I-IS THAT TRUE!?

UPON HEARING THIS PROCLAMATION, FIGHTS BROKE OUT AMONGST THE GARRISON

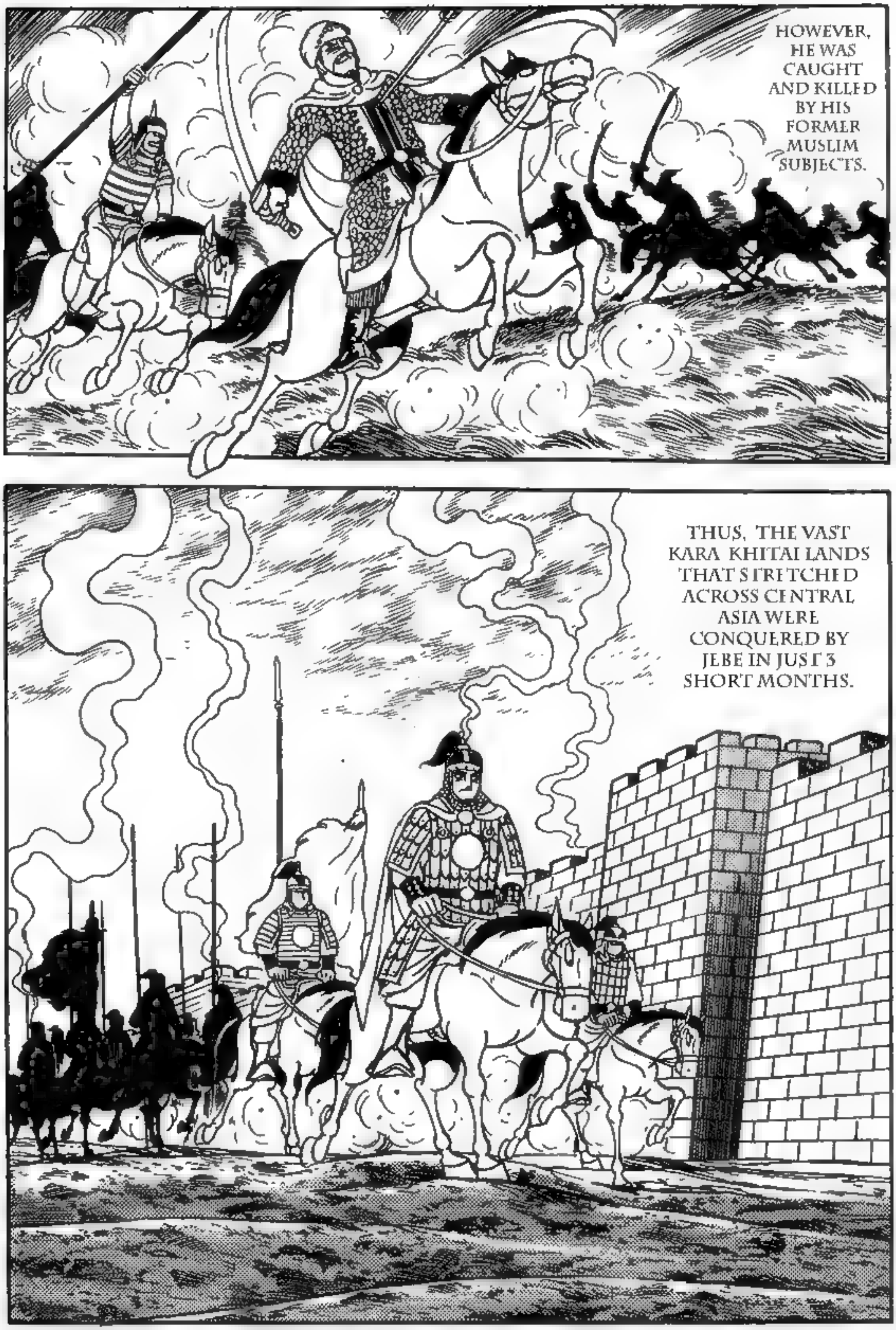

THE GATES WERE THEN OPENED BY MUSLIMS INSIDE.

THUS, THE MONGOLS ENTERED THE CITY WITH EASE.

AND THEY WERE HELPED BY MUSLIMS IN TAKING OVER THE CITY QUARTERS.

JEBE USED THE SAME TACTICS TO QUICKLY CAPTURE ONE CITY AFTER ANOTHER

KUCHLUG FLED FOR THE PAMIR STEPPE


HOWEVER, HE WAS CAUGHT AND KILLED BY HIS FORMER MUSLIM SUBJECTS.
THUS, THE VAST KARA KHITAI LANDS THAT STRETCHED ACROSS CENTRAL ASIA WERE CONQUERED BY JEBE IN JUST 3 SHORT MONTHS.

Unknown Lands

WE ARE NOW ONE STEP CLOSER TO YOUR DREAM, CHINGGIS KHAN.

THANKS TO YOUR WISE ADVICE, JEBE HAS CONQUERED KARA-KHITAI WITH EASE IN JUST 3 MONTHS.

YES.

YES, WITH CENTRAL ASIA UNDER MY RULE, I CAN FINALLY INITIATE TRADE WITH KHAWARAZM AND THE REST OF THE FAR WEST.

JUDGING BY THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, WEAVINGS, AND OTHER CRAFTS COMING FROM WEST THROUGH KARA-KHITAI, AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT KIND OF CIVILIZATION LIES IN THE FAR WEST. DIFFERENT IN EVERY WAY FROM THE JIN OR THE SONG. I HAVE GREAT HOPES IN ESTABLISHING TRADE WITH KHWARAZM.

EVEN I HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUCH A FARAWAY REALM.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF PLACE KHWARAZM IS?

I SEE. THAT BODES WELL.

I HAVE HEARD FROM MERCHANTS THAT THEIR WEAVINGS AND ARTS ARE TRULY A SIGHT TO BEHOLD.

A WISE CHOICE, INDEED.

I AM THINKING OF SENDING A TRADING CARAVAN THERE AT ONCE.

THE KHWARAZM EMPIRE WAS A POWERFUL STATE SPANNING ACROSS IRAN AND PARTS OF CENTRAL ASIA. TO HERE, CHINGGIS KHAN SENT A TRADING CARAVAN OF 150 MERCHANTS TO INTIATE TRADING RELATIONS.

THE CARAVAN FIRST ARRIVED AT THE CITY OF OTRAR.

YES, WE WISH NOTHING MORE THAN TO TRADE FOR THE VALUABLE GOODS OF KHWARAZM.
I AM THE GOVERNOR OF OTRAR. I HEAR YOU HAVE COME TO INITIATE TRADE WITH THE KHWARAZM EMPIRE?
THERE ARE MANY SPIES THESE DAYS DISGUISED AS TRADE CARAVANS. SHOW ME PROOF THAT YOU ARE REAL MERCHANTS.

LET ME INSPECT YOUR WARES.

AND WHAT WOULD SUFFICE AS PROOF, SIR?

GOOD.

AH, OF COURSE. INSPECT THEM AS MUCH AS YOU WISH.

YES.

TAKE OUT OUR WARES TO SHOW THE GOVERNOR WE ARE REAL MERCHANTS.

WE HAVE BROUGHT PLENTY OF GOLD AND SILVER TO TRADE FOR YOUR LAND'S GOODS.

AHHH!

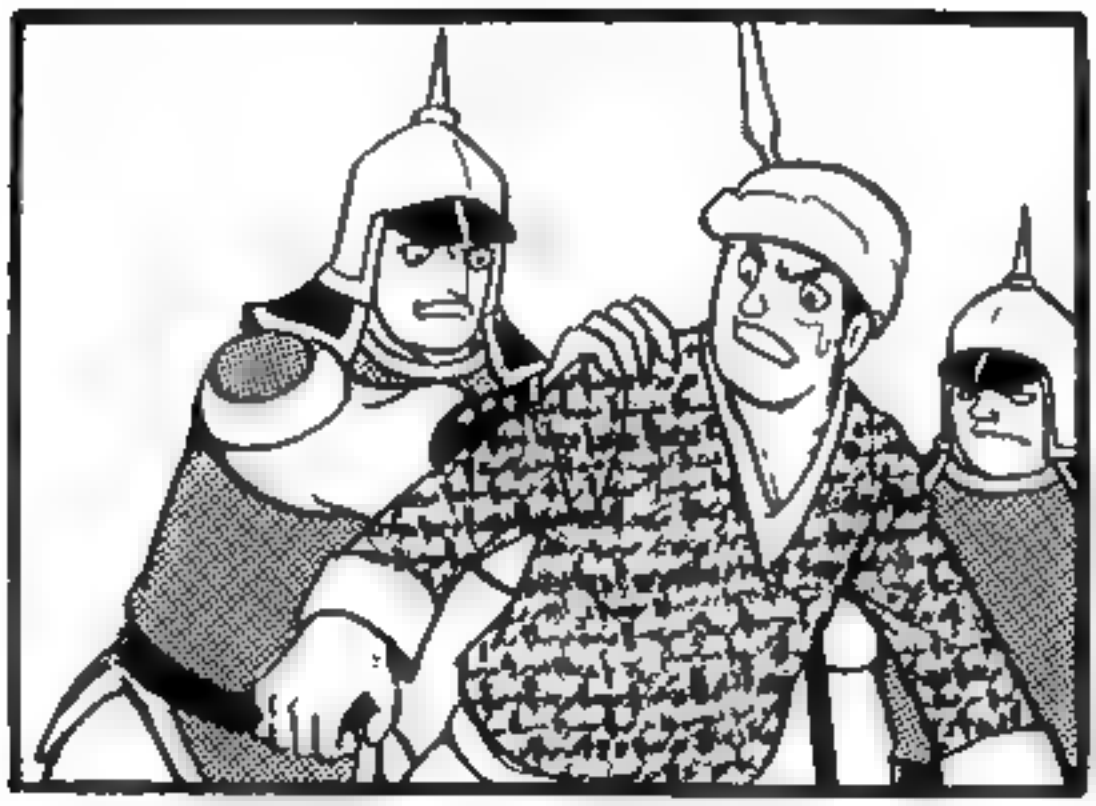
GUARDS! ARREST THEM AT ONCE!

IF I ARREST THESE MEN, THEN I CAN TAKE ALL THESE RICHES FOR MYSELF... I CAN SIMPLY REPORT TO MY SHAH THAT I EXECUTED FOREIGN SPIES.

YOU ARE CLEARLY SPIES FOR THE MONGOLS!

W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, GOVERNOR?

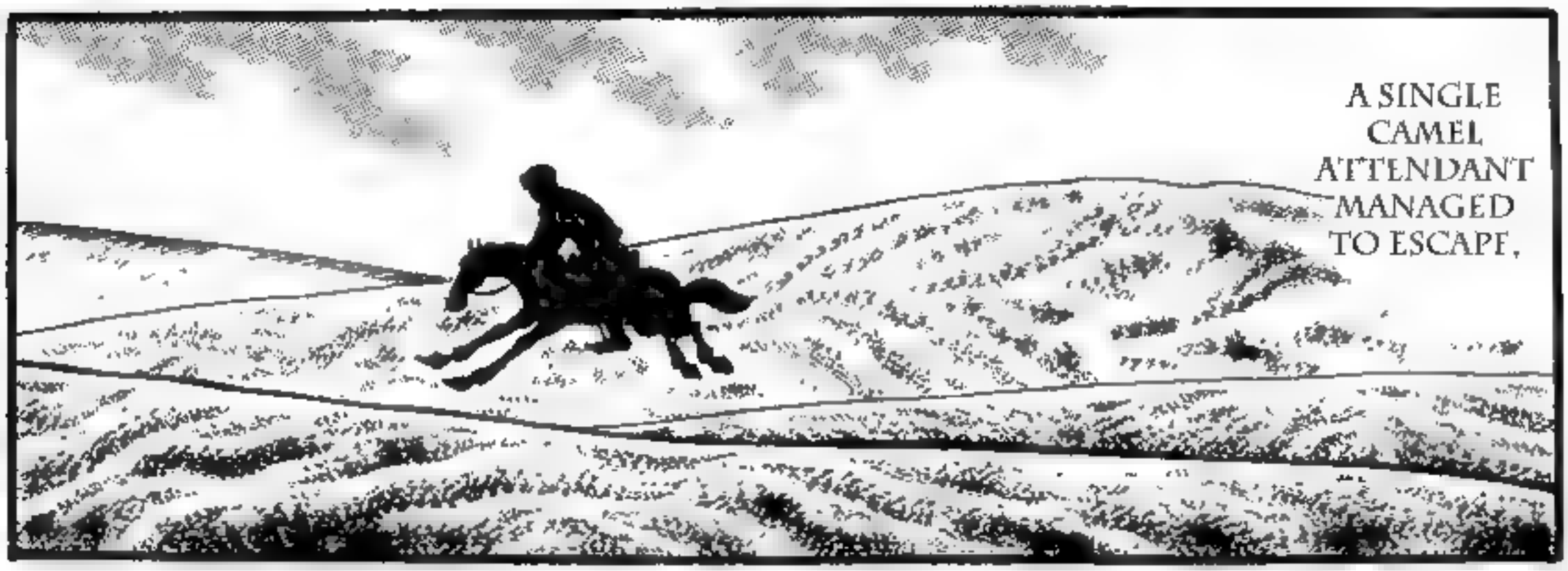
THIS IS A MIS-UNDERSTANDING! WE SWEAR WE ARE HONEST MERCHANTS!



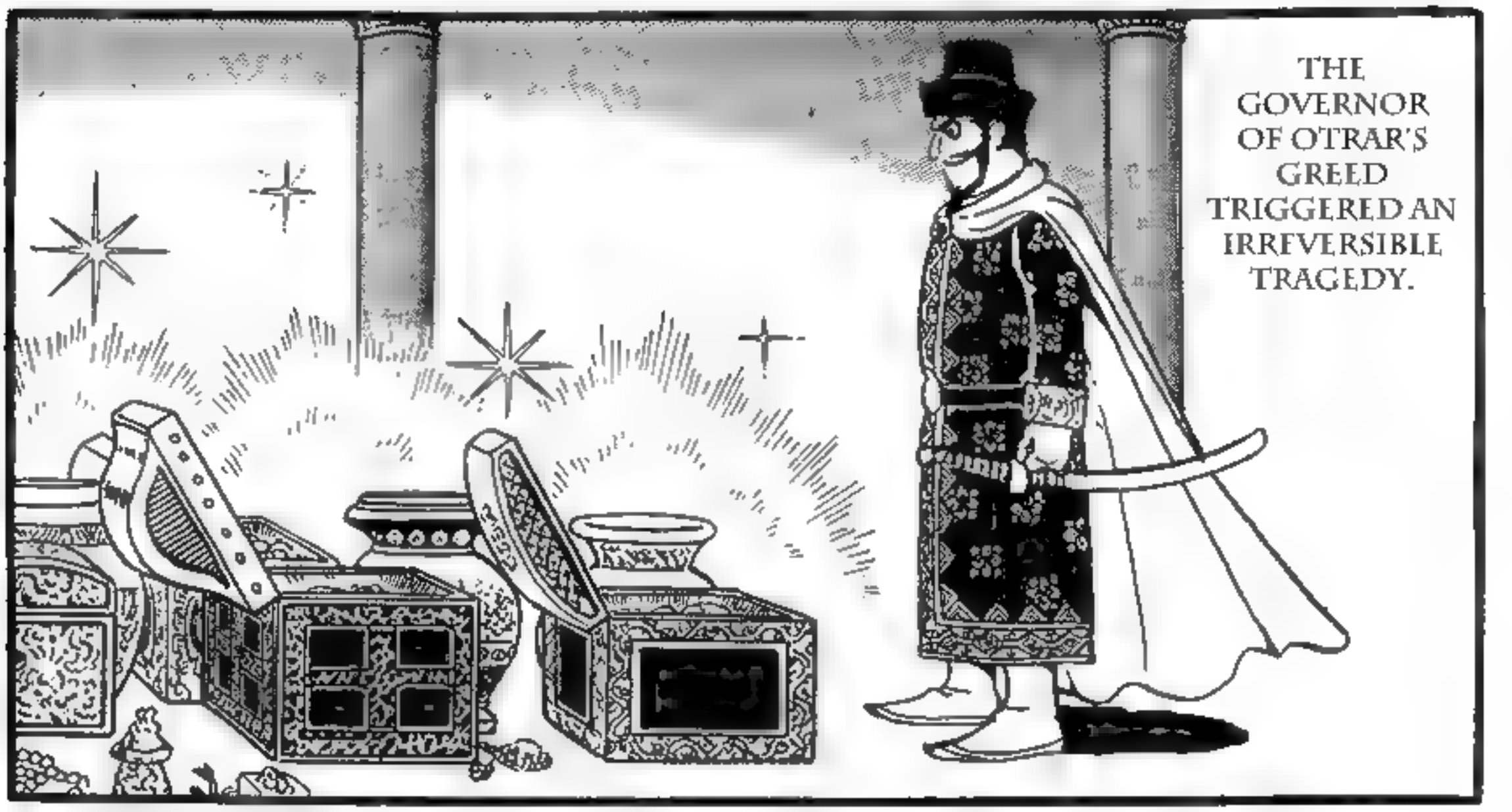
ENOUGH LIES! GUARDS! EXECUTE THESE SPIES AT ONCE!

NO, PLEASE!
AGHH!

AGHH...


A SINGLE CAMEL ATTENDANT MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

BUT THE REST OF THE PARTY WERE KILLED.


THE GOVERNOR OF OTRAR'S GREED TRIGGERED AN IRREVERSIBLE TRAGEDY.

THE GOVERNOR ACCUSED US ALL OF BEING SPIES...

WHAT!? MY MERCHANTS WERE ALL KILLED!?

I OFFER THEM PEACE AND TRADE, AND THEY DARE RESPOND WITH BRUTALITY? DO THEY THINK THAT WE MONGOLS ARE HARMLESS FLIES THAT COULD NOT HURT THEM EVEN IF WE TRIED!?

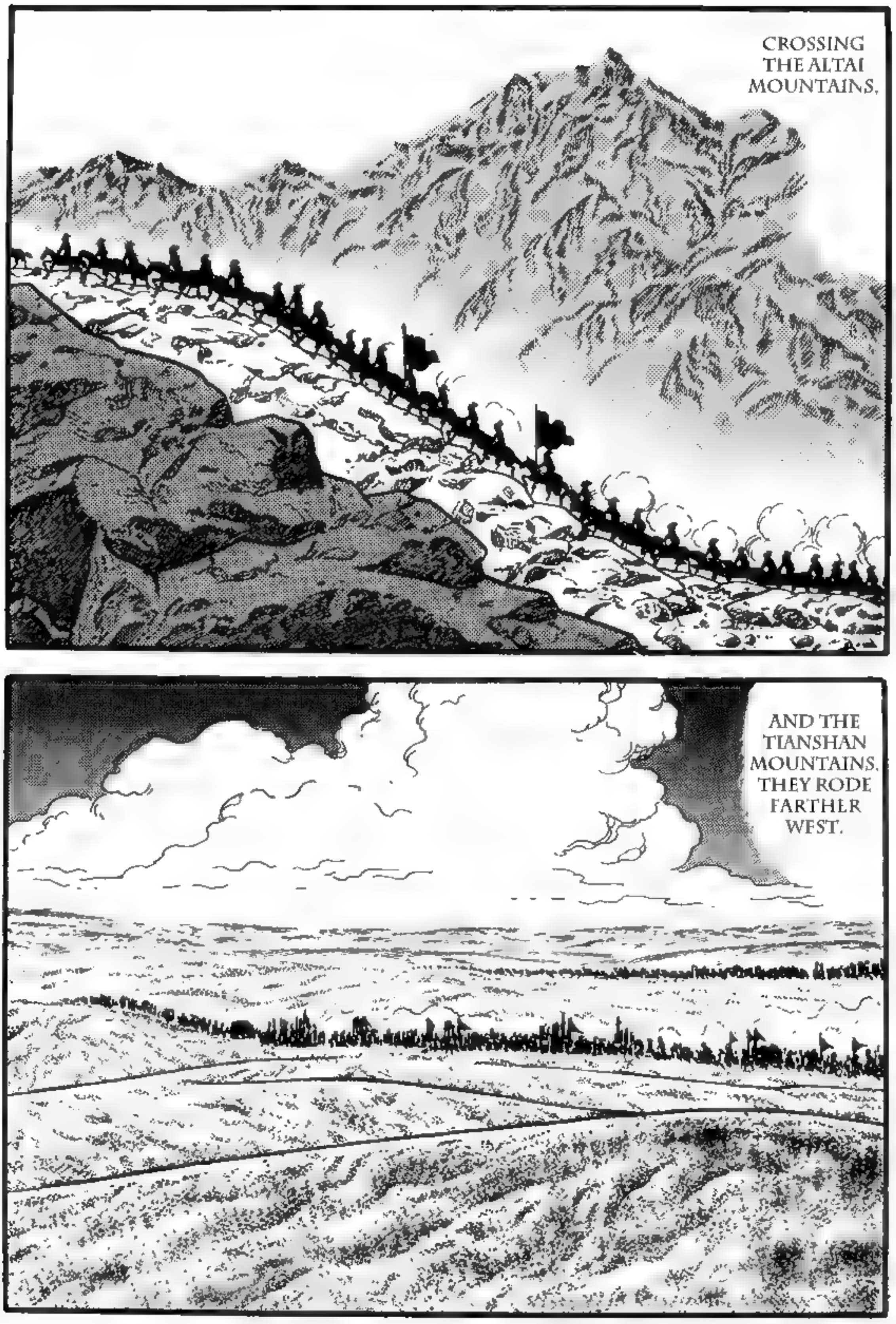
CHINGGIS KHAN EXPLODED IN RAGE

THE DESCENDANTS OF THE BLUE GRAY WOLF DO NOT BACK DOWN FROM ANYTHING! I SWEAR MY HORDES WILL TRAMPLE OVER THE LANDS OF KHWARAZM, NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR MIGHTY IT IS!

YES, KHAN.

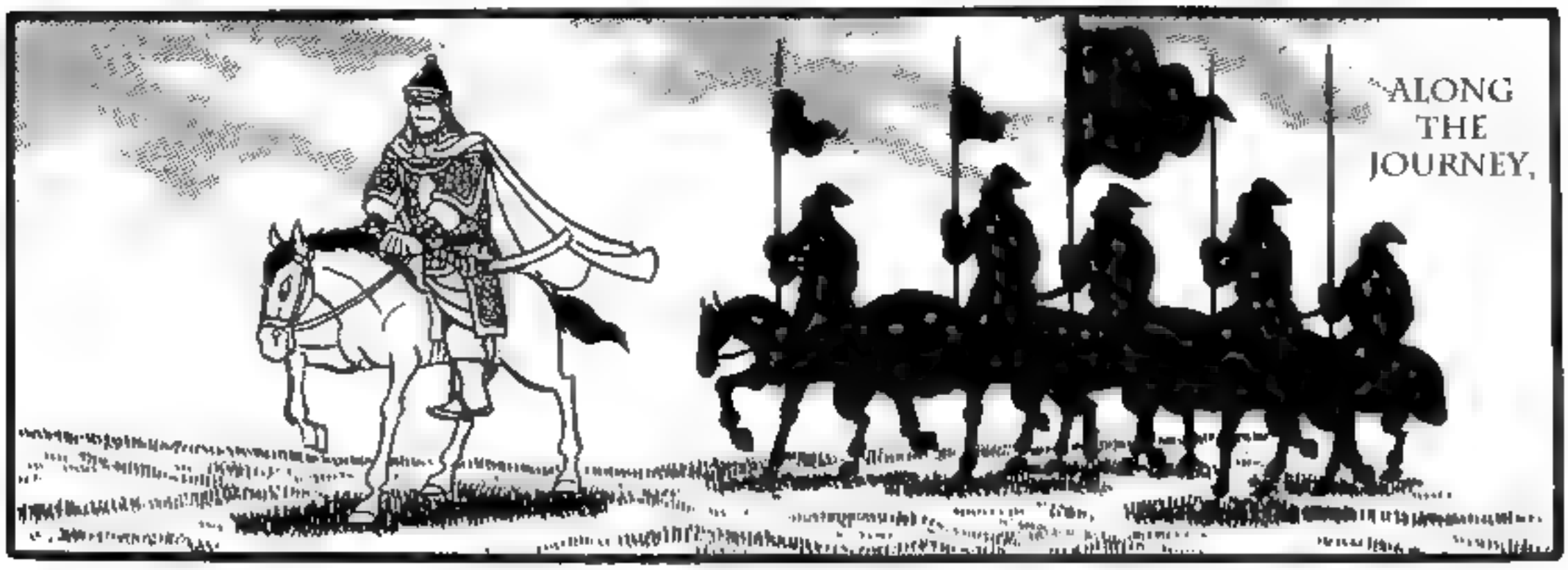
WE WILL MARCH WEST FOR KHWARAZM AS SOON AS THE WINTER SNOW MELTS! MAKE ALL NEEDED PREPARATIONS UNTIL THEN!

IN SPRING OF 1219, CHINGGIS KHAN RODE WEST AT THE HEAD OF A 200,000-STRONG ARMY.


CROSSING THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS,
AND THE TIANSHAN MOUNTAINS, THEY RODE FARTHER WEST.

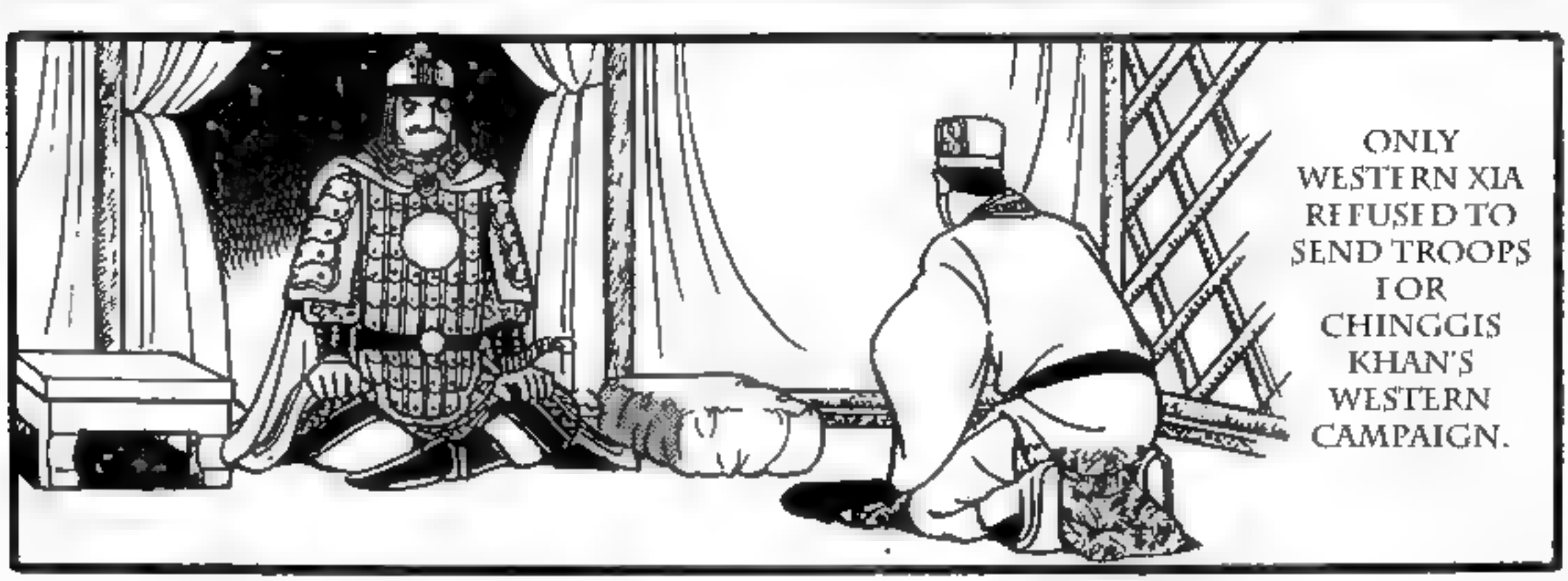
MANY MERCHANTS AND SCOUTS WERE SENT AHEAD OF TIME TO REPORT BACK ON THE LOCATIONS, NUMBERS, AND GARRISON SIZES OF CITIES. FOR KHWARAZM WAS STILL LARGELY AN UNKNOWN LAND FOR THE MONGOLS.

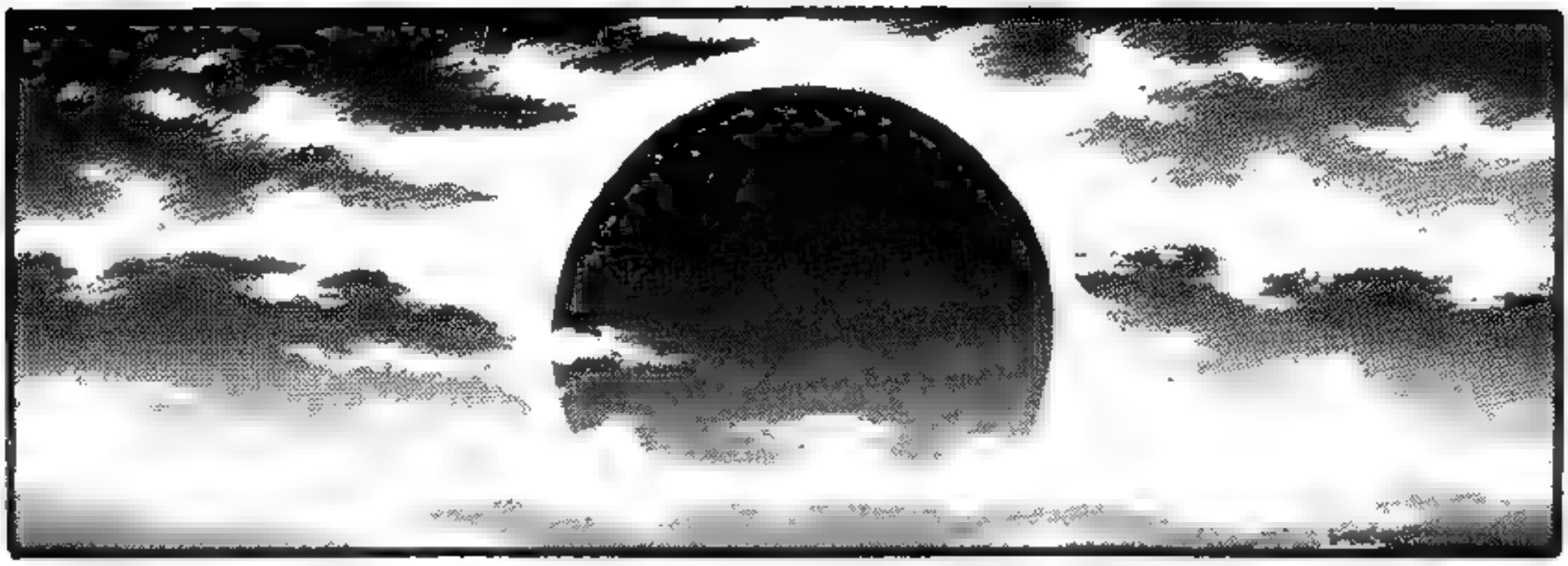
THE REPORTS ON CITY DEFENSES ALLOWED THE ENGINEERS TO BUILD APPROPRIATE SIEGE ENGINES THAT COULD OVERCOME THEM.

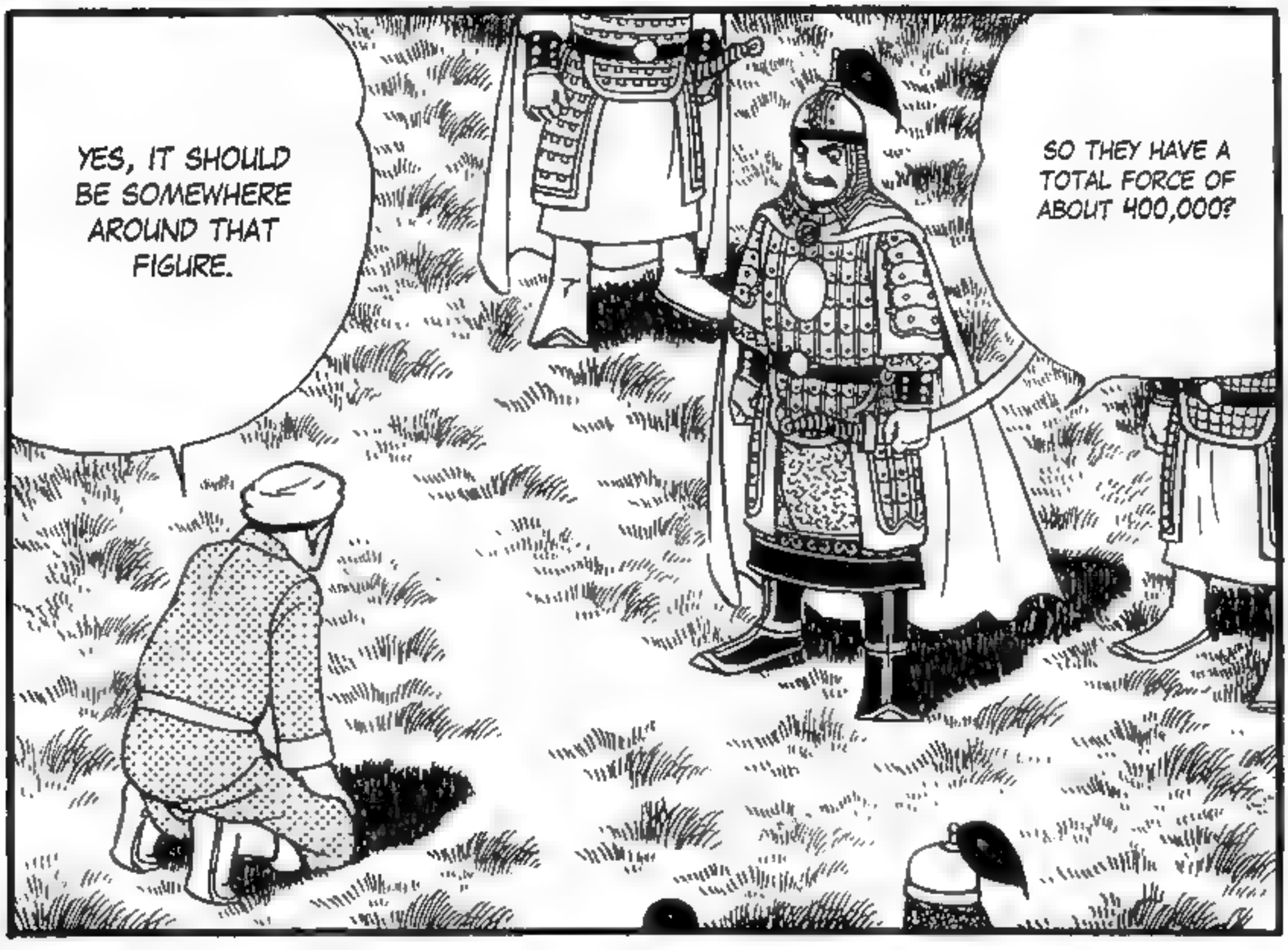

ALONG THE JOURNEY,

CHINGGIS KHAN WAS JOINED BY AUXILIARY TROOPS SENT BY THE UIGHUR IDIKUT BARCHUK,

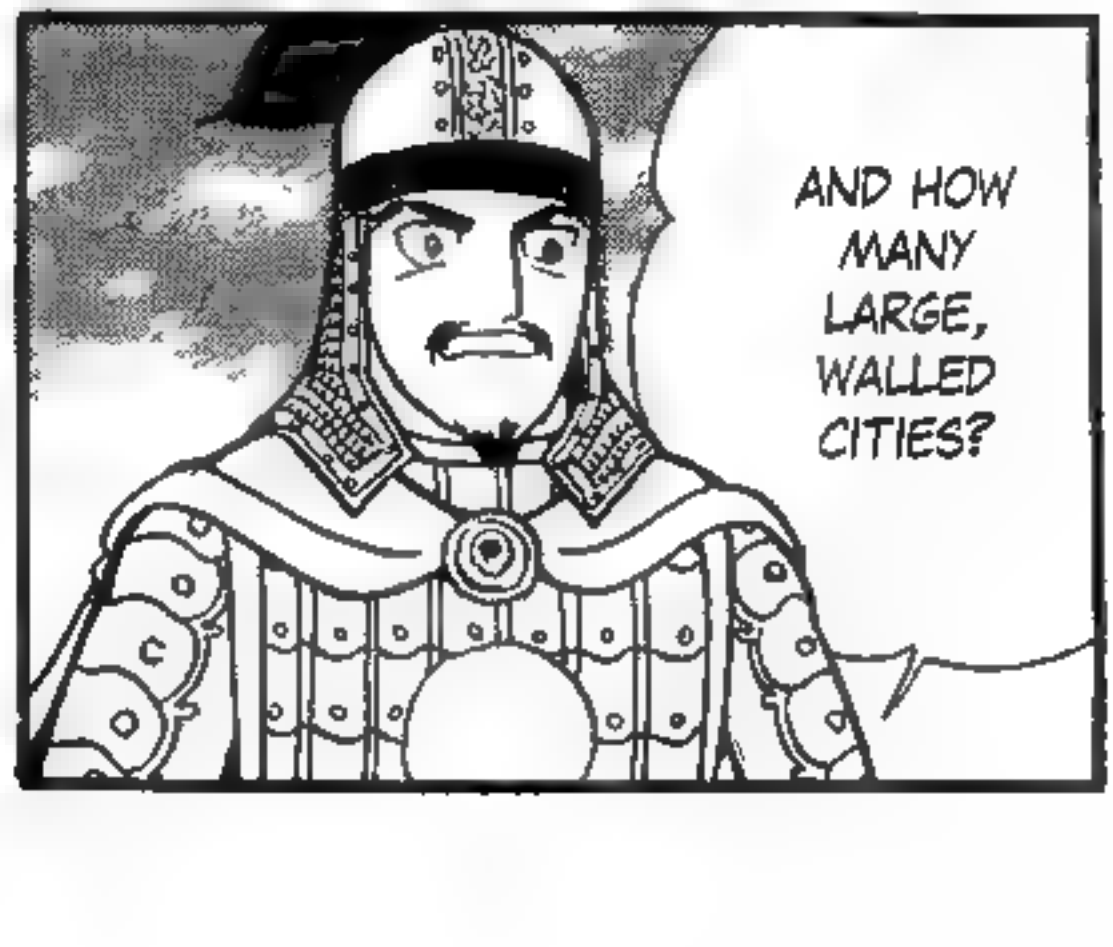
THE KARLUK TURK KHAN ARSLAN, AND THE ALMALIK KING OZAR.


ONLY WESTERN XIA REFUSED TO SEND TROOPS FOR CHINGGIS KHAN'S WESTERN CAMPAIGN.




YES, IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND THAT FIGURE.
SO THEY HAVE A TOTAL FORCE OF ABOUT 400,000?

I'VE HEARD SOME SAY 15, OTHERS, 16.

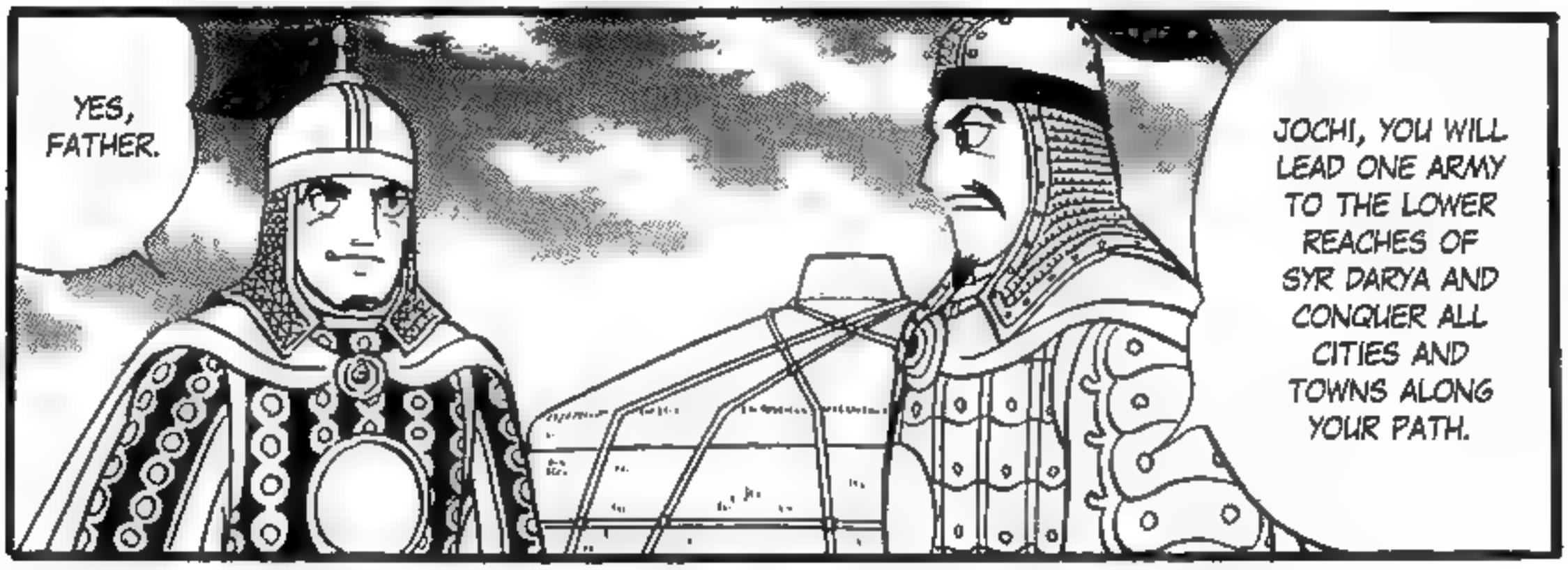

AND HOW MANY LARGE, WALLED CITIES?

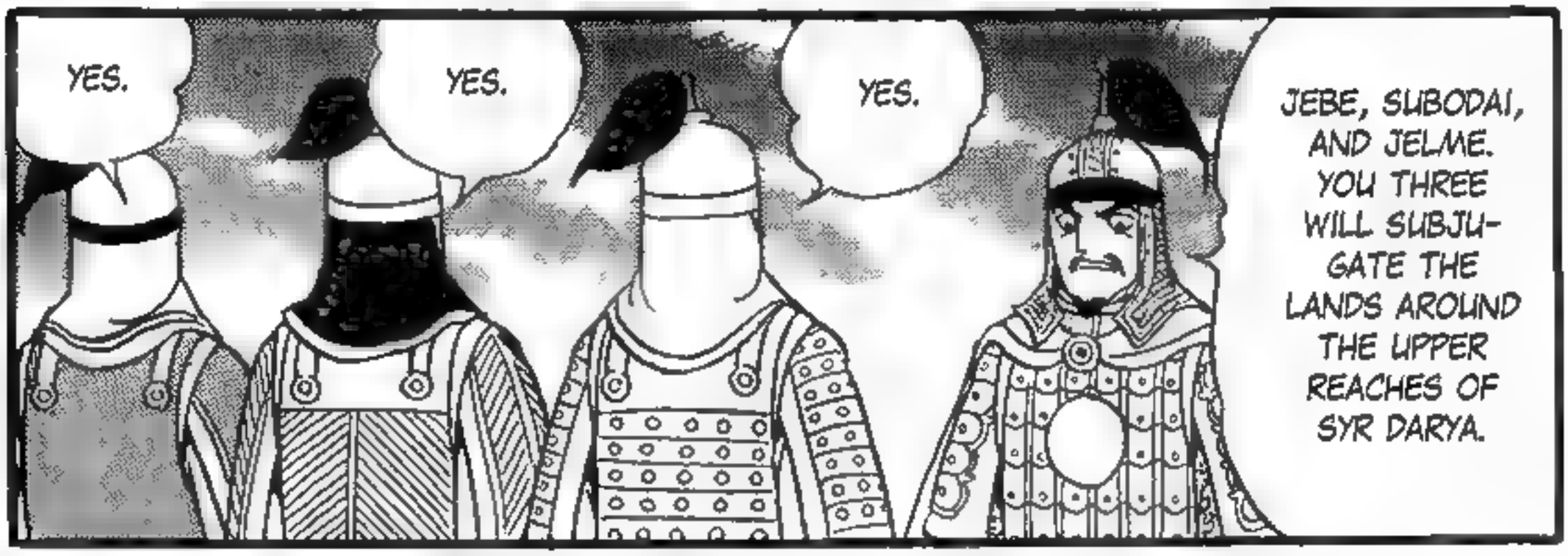
YES, KHAN.

I SEE. GOOD WORK, YOU MAY WITHDRAW NOW.

AS THE SCOUT HAS JUST REPORTED TO ME NOW, THE ENEMIES HAVE 15 OR 16 LARGE, WALLED CITIES AND A FORCE OF 400,000, TWICE OUR NUMBER.

"FROM OLDEST TO YOUNGEST OF CHINGGIS KHAN'S SONS JOCHI, CHAGHATAI, ÖGÖDEI, TOLUI





SHOW NO MERCY TO THOSE WHO RESIST, SO THAT WE MAY SHOW ANY MAN WHO DARES THINK OF OPPOSING US, JUST WHAT KIND OF DOOM AWAITS HIM.

THIS CAMPAIGN WILL SEE NO END UNTIL THE KHWARAZM SHAH MUHAMMAD IS KILLED.

YES, BO'ORCHU? SPEAK FREELY.

CHINGGIS KHAN.

KHWARAZM IS A VAST EMPIRE AND WE WILL FIND OURSELVES OUTNUMBERED TIME AND TIME AGAIN. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST CASE SCENARIO BY HAVING YOU NAME YOUR SUCCESSOR BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER.

ÖGÖDEI, MY THIRD SON, WILL SUCCEED AFTER ME AS KHAN.

YES... I CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT I MAY FALL IN BATTLE...

WHAT!?

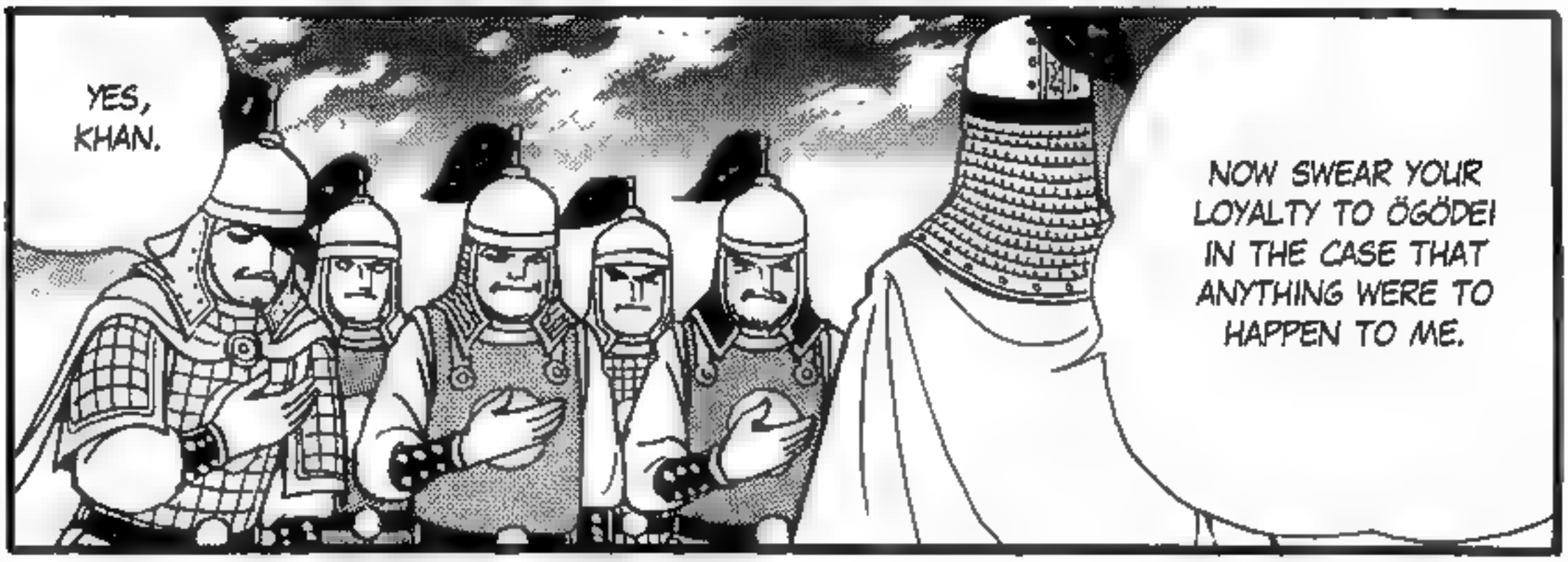
WHAT!?

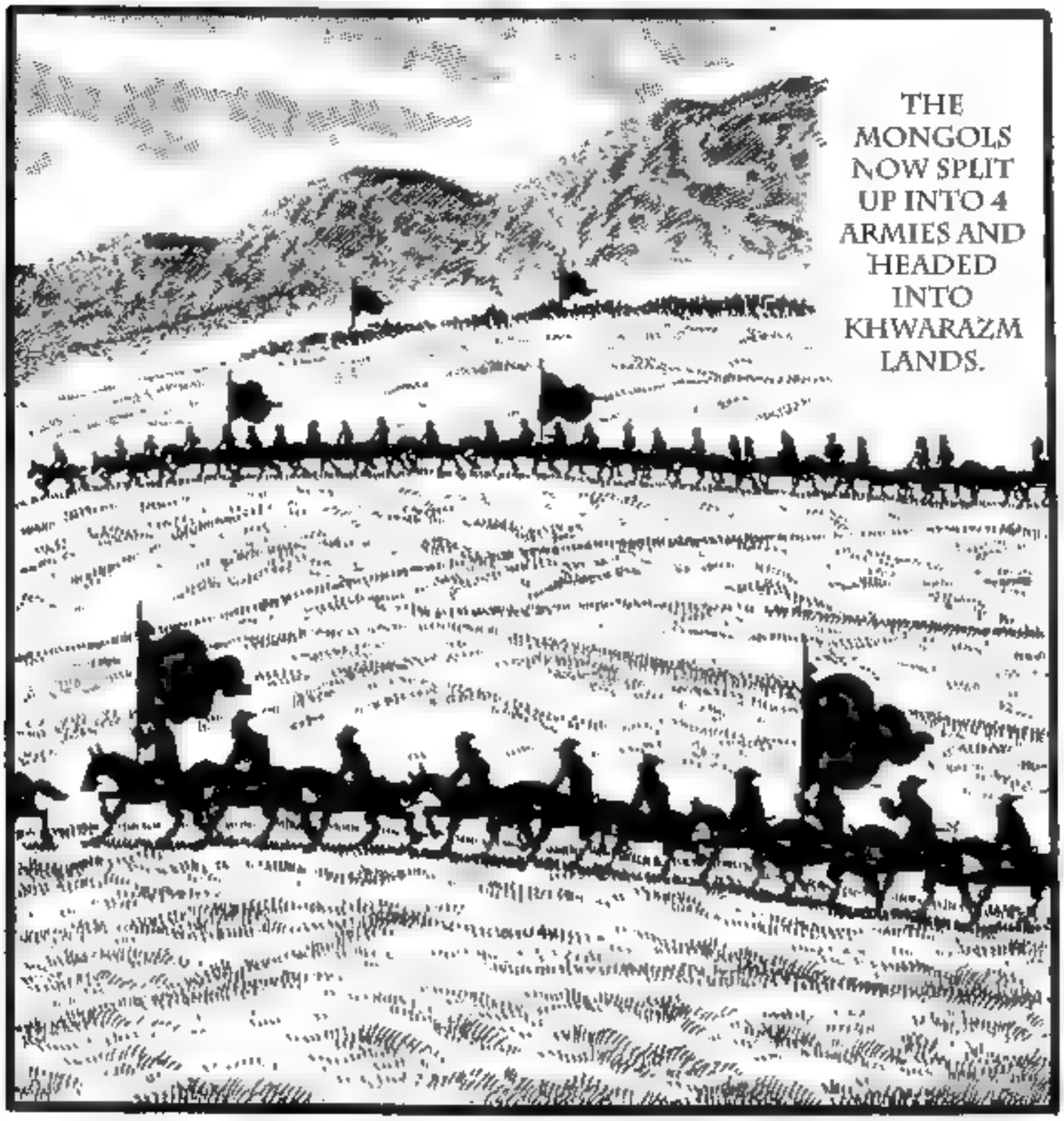
INDEED, BOTH JOCHI AND CHAGHATAI ARE STRONG AND BRAVE WARRIORS, WORTHY OF BEING DESCENDANTS OF THE BLUE GRAY WOLF.

FROM YOUR SURPRISE, I ASSUME YOU WERE EXPECTING MY SUCCESSOR TO BE EITHER MY FIRST OR SECOND SON, JOCHI OR CHAGHATAI.

BUT AS ILA CHUZAI ONCE TAUGHT ME, TO GOVERN AN EMPIRE REQUIRES MORE THAN BRUTE STRENGTH. ONE MUST WIN THE HEARTS OF ITS PEOPLE...

FROM A YOUNG AGE, ÖGÖDEI HAS BEEN GOOD-TEMPERED, CONCILIATORY, AND GENEROUS. HE HAS NEVER TRIED HIS HAND AT ANY UNNECESSARY UNDERHANDED SCHEMING EITHER. THUS, HE IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE LEADER UNDER WHOM OUR UNITY CAN BE MAINTAINED. THAT IS WHY I NAME HIM AS MY SUCCESSOR.

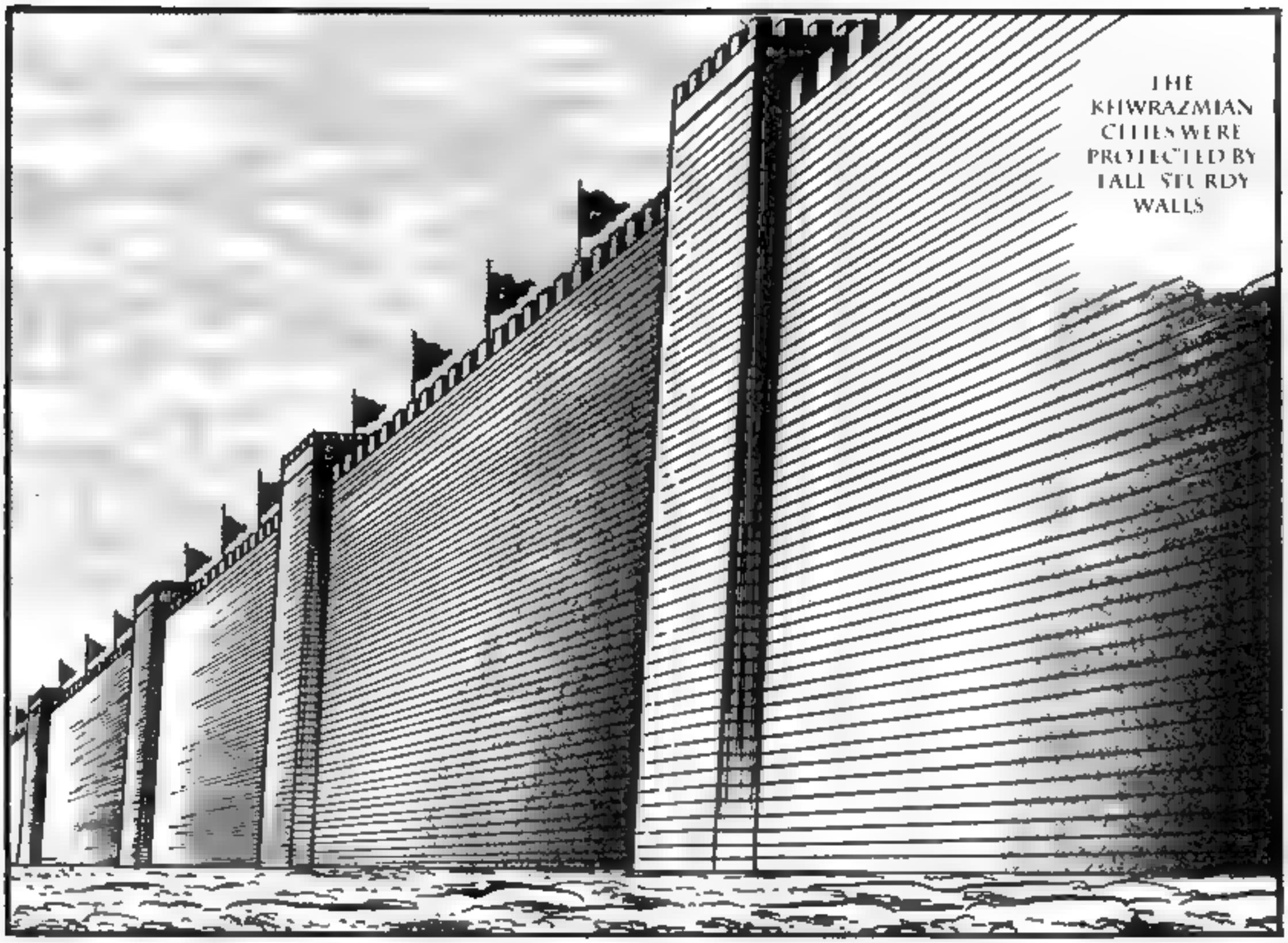


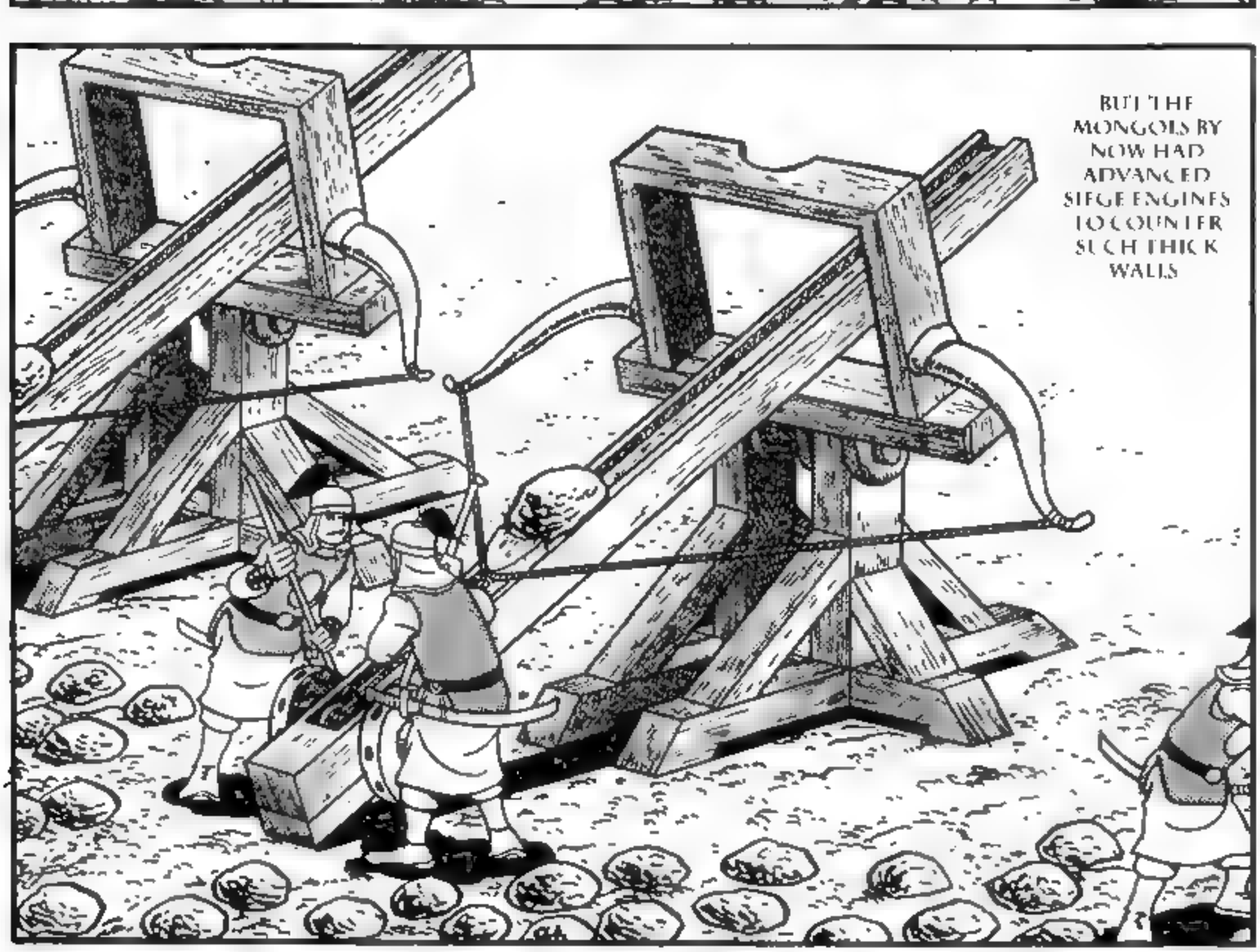


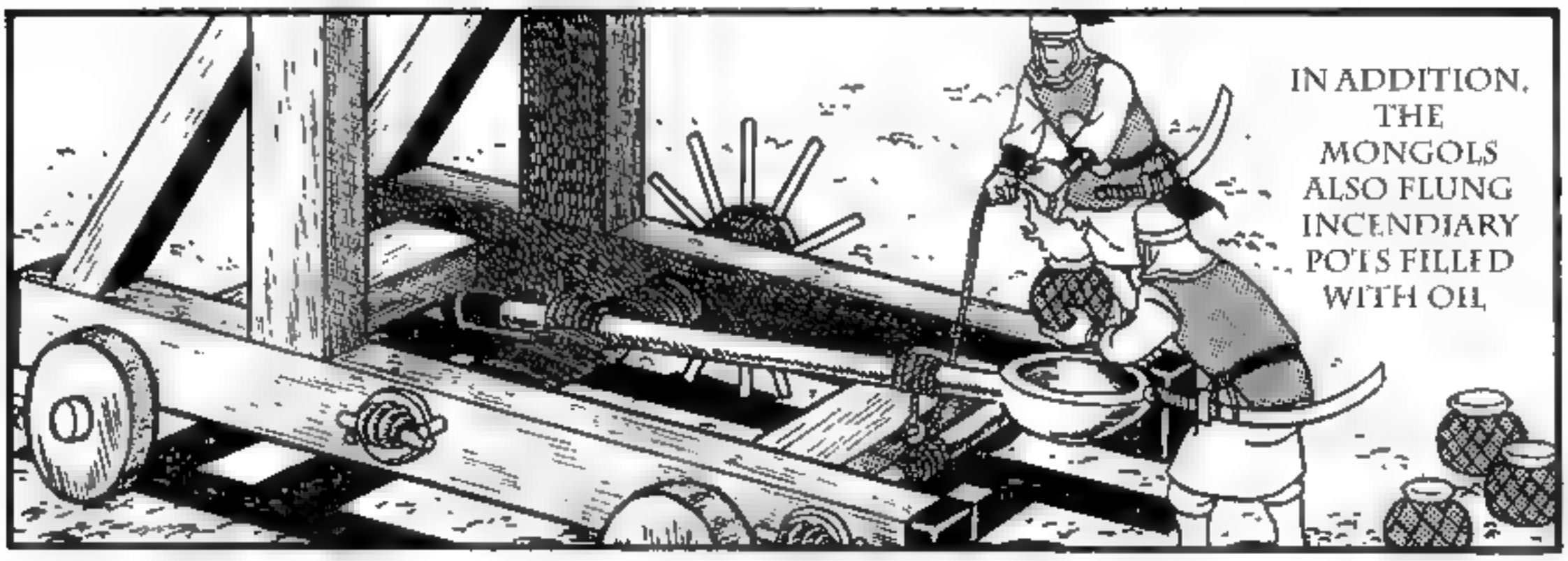
THERE WAS ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR CHINGGIS KHAN S DECISION TO NAME ÖGÖDEI AS HIS HEIR. LONG AGO, WHEN HE MANAGED TO RECOVER HIS ABUDCTED WIFE BÖRTE FROM THE MERKITS, HE FOUND HER ALREADY PREGNANT. THE SON SHE BORE FROM THIS PREGNANCY WAS HIS ELDEST SON JOCHI.

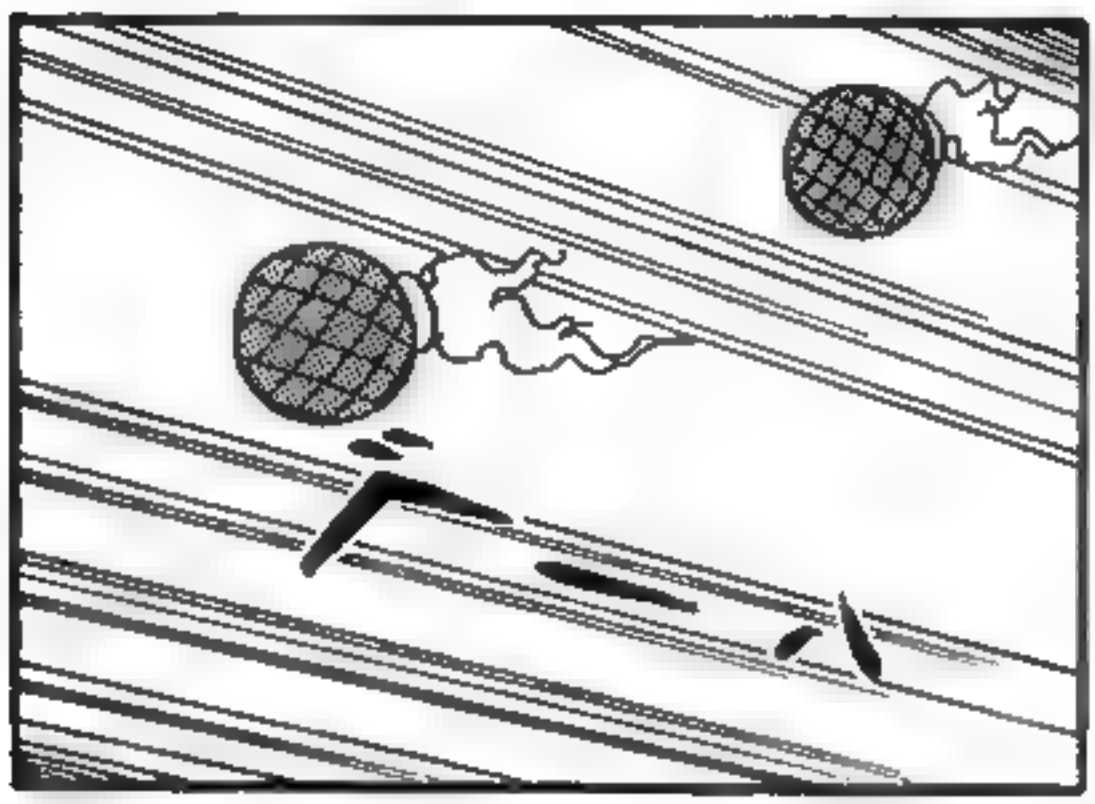
FOR THIS REASON, CHAGHATAI ALWAYS DOUBTED JOCHI'S LEGITIMACY AND THE TWO NEVER GOT ALONG THUS, TO NAME EITHER JOCHI OR CHAGHATAI AS THE SUCCESSOR WOULD INEVITABLY CAUSE A GREAT STRAIN TO MONGOL UNITY.

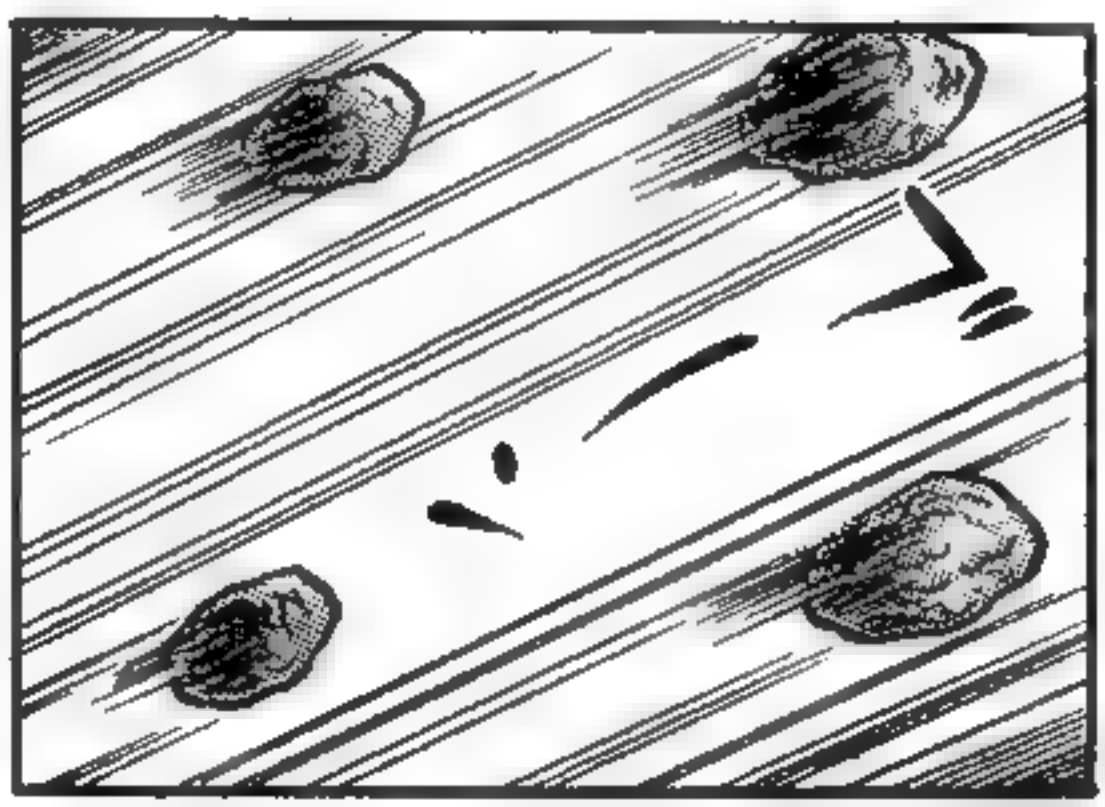
HENCE, ÖGÖDEI WAS CHOSEN AS AN IDEAL COMPROMISE CHINGGIS KHAN S ORDERS WERE ABSOLUTE, AND ALL ACCEPTED HIS DECISION

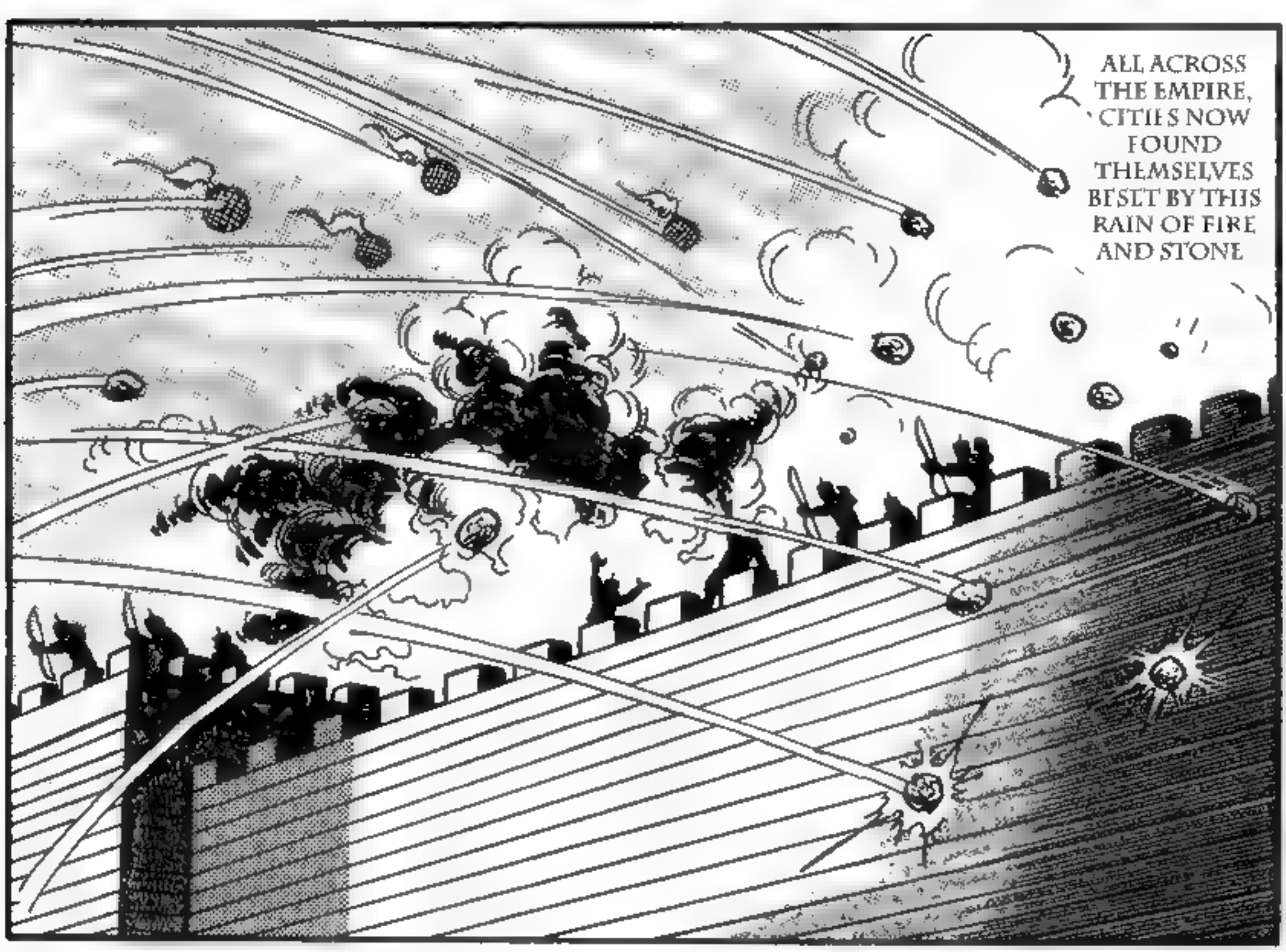

THE KHWRAZMIAN CITIES WERE PROTECTED BY TALL STURDY WALLS

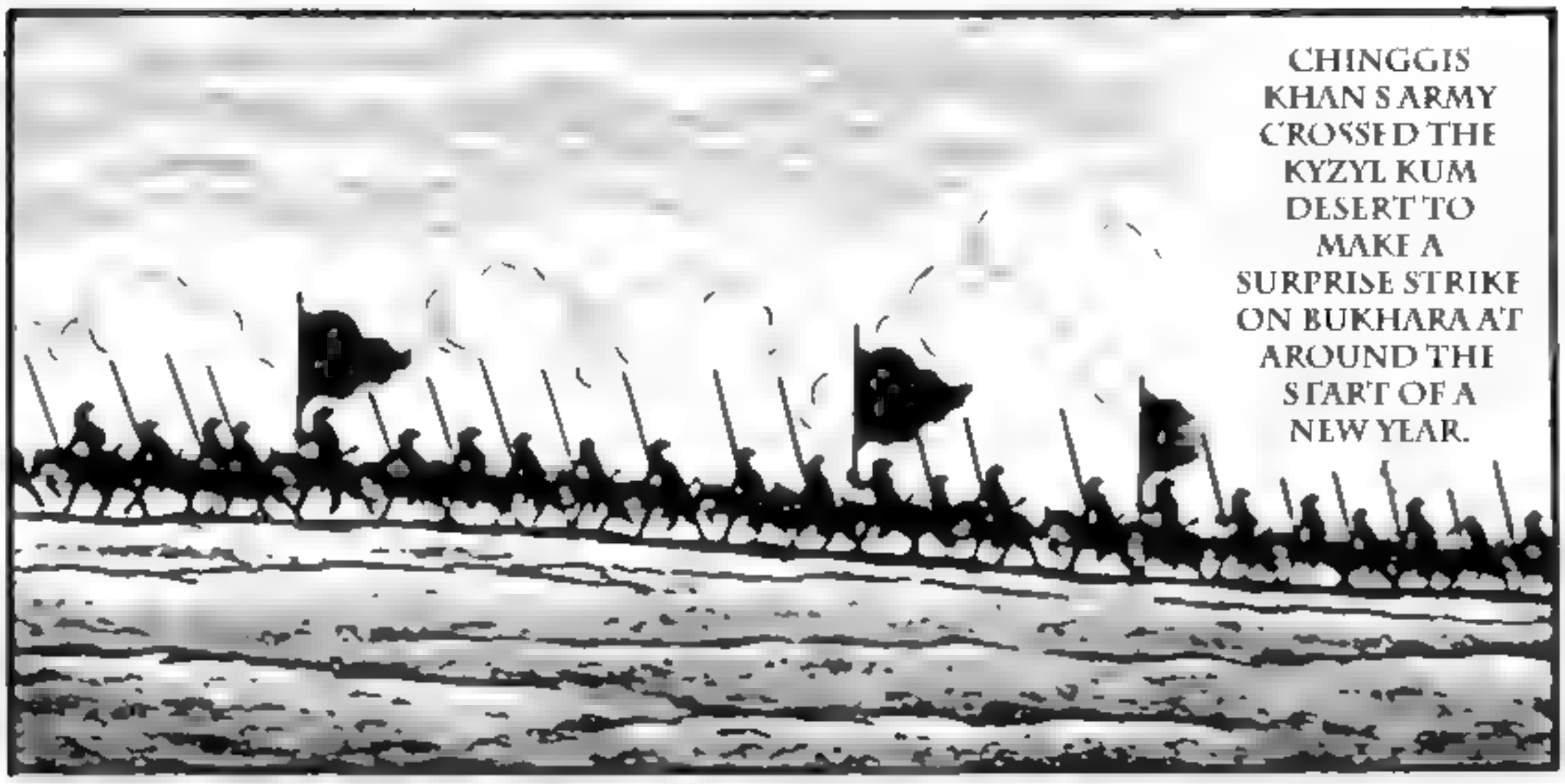

BUT THE MONGOLS BY NOW HAD ADVANCED SIEGE ENGINES TO COUNTER SUCH THICK WALLS

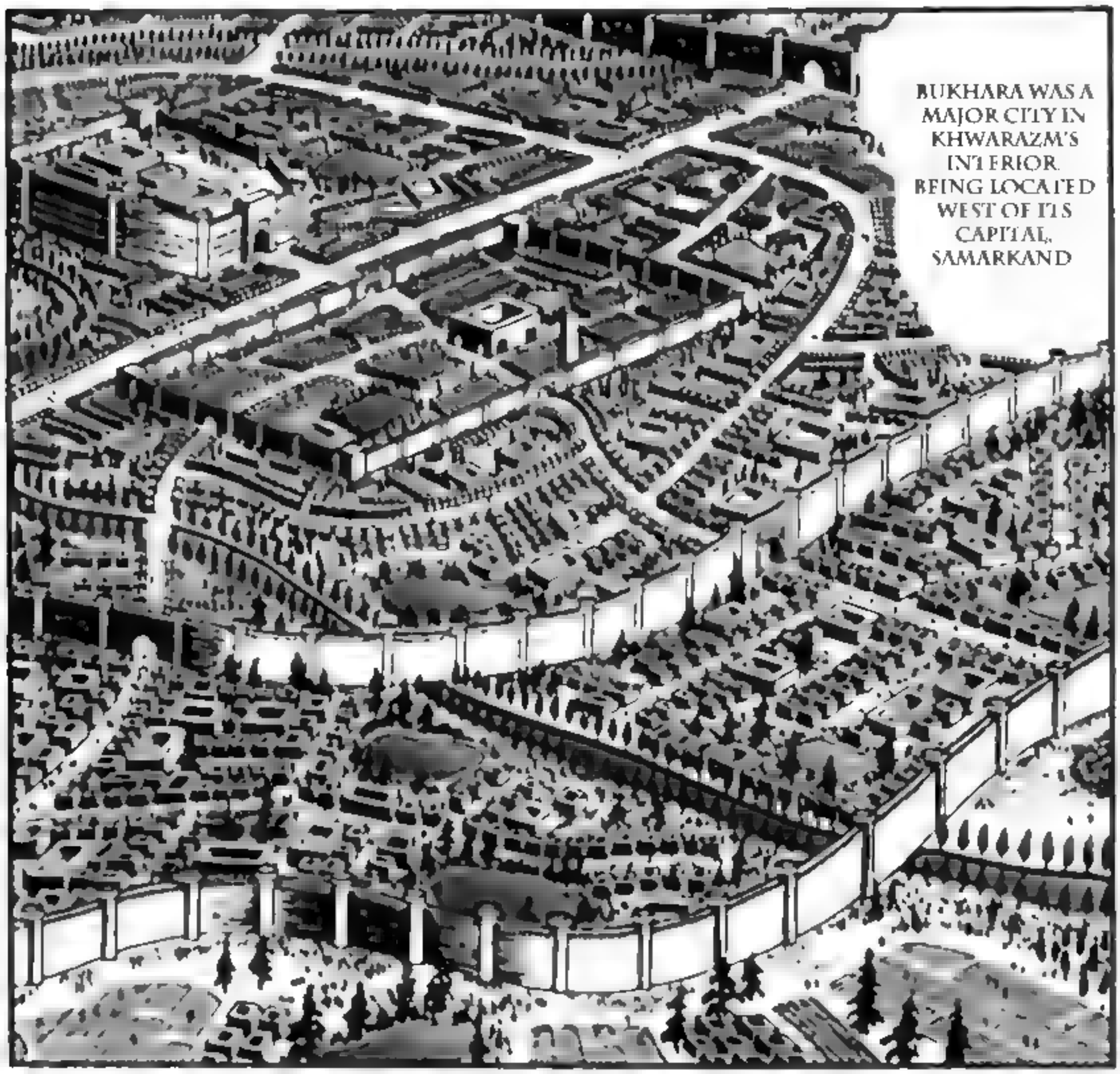

IN ADDITION, THE MONGOLS ALSO FLUNG INCENDIARY POTS FILLED WITH OIL





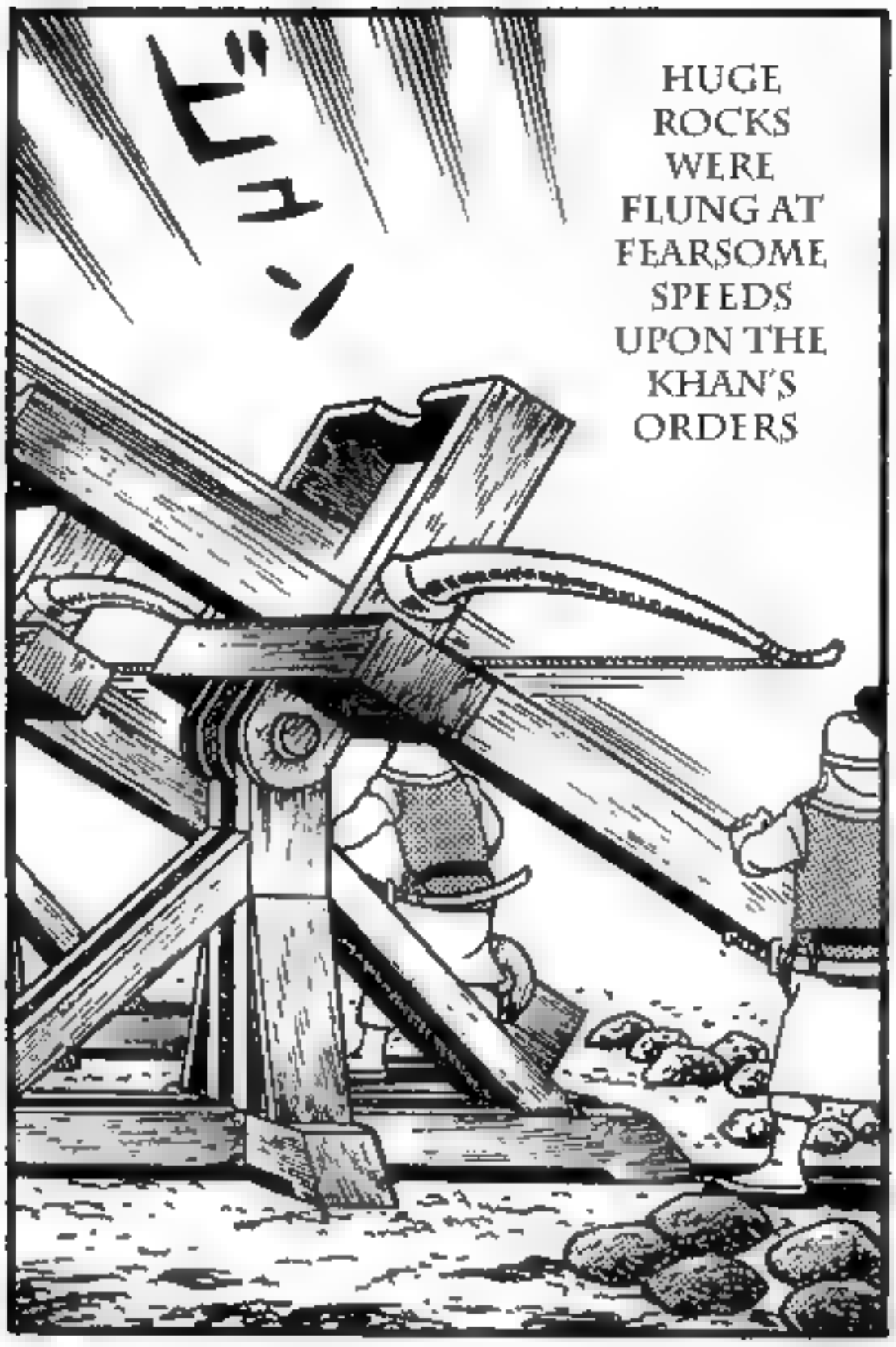

ALL ACROSS THE EMPIRE, CITIES NOW FOUND THEMSELVES BESET BY THIS RAIN OF FIRE AND STONE


CHINGGIS KHAN'S ARMY CROSSED THE KYZYL KUM DESERT TO MAKE A SURPRISE STRIKE ON BUKHARA AT AROUND THE START OF A NEW YEAR.


BUKHARA WAS A MAJOR CITY IN KHWARAZM'S INTERIOR, BEING LOCATED WEST OF ITS CAPITAL, SAMARKAND

PEOPLE OF BUKHARA! THIS IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY WARNING! OPEN YOUR GATES, AND WE WILL SPARE ALL WHO SURRENDER! BUT IF YOU RESIST, WE WILL SHOW NO MERCY WHEN WE BREAK THROUGH YOUR WALLS BY FORCE!

SILENCE! THERE ARE NO FOOLS NOR COWARDS AMONG US HERE WHO WOULD WILLINGLY LAY DOWN ARMS AND SURRENDER!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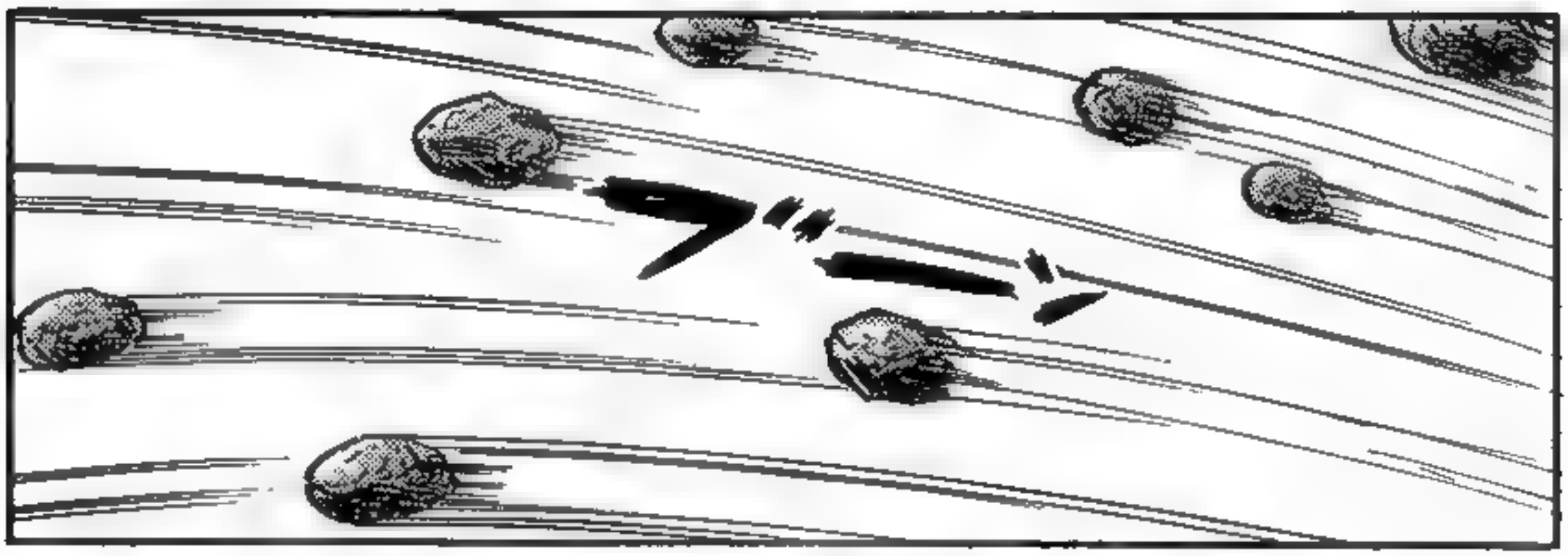
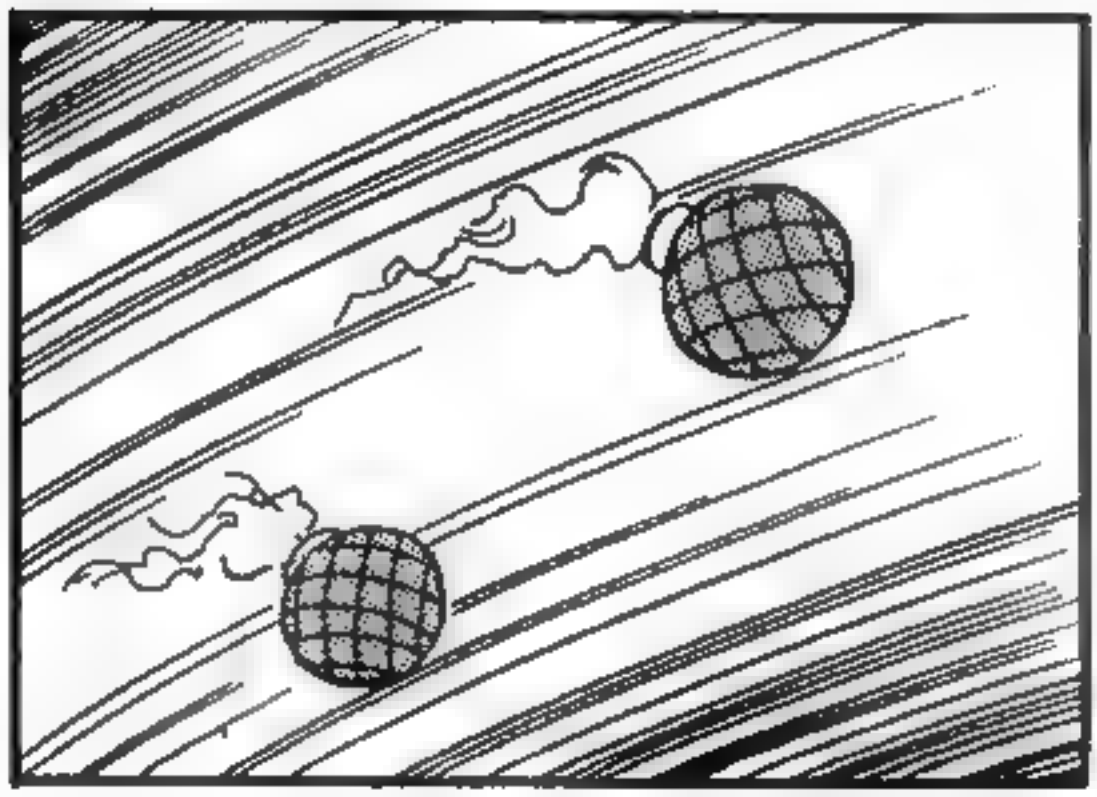
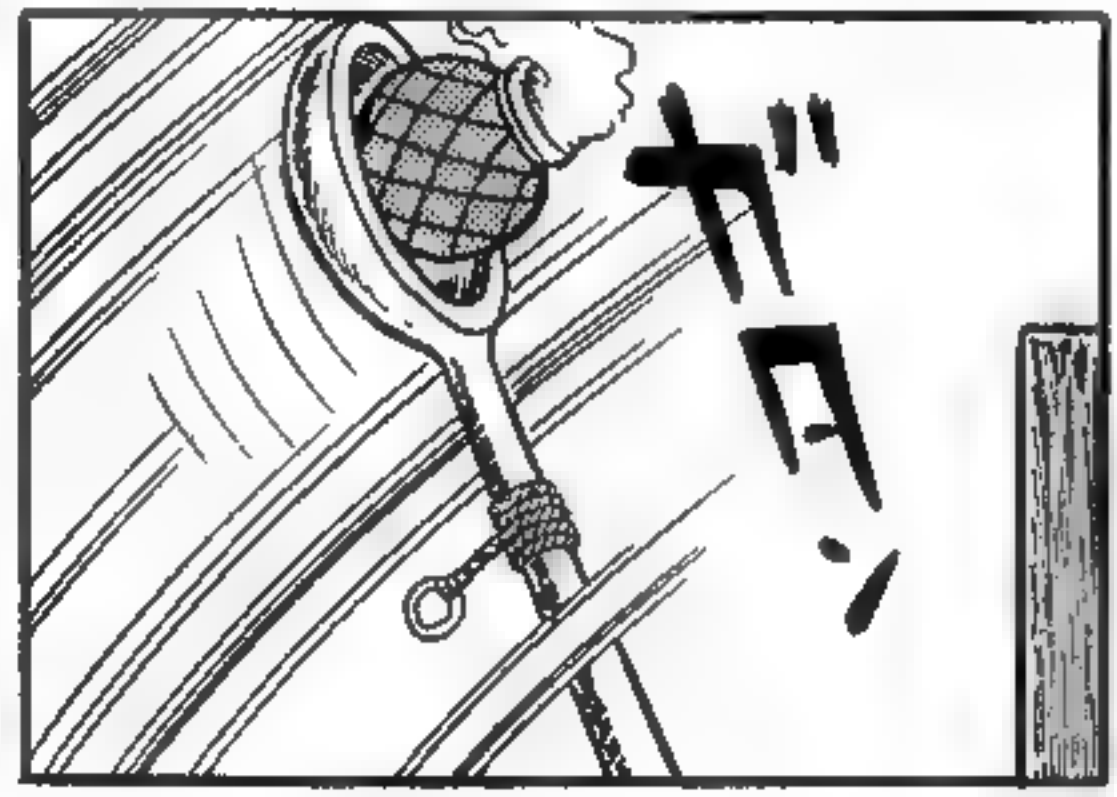
HUGE ROCKS WERE FLUNG AT FEARSOME SPEEDS UPON THE KHAN'S ORDERS

COMMENCE THE SIEGE!



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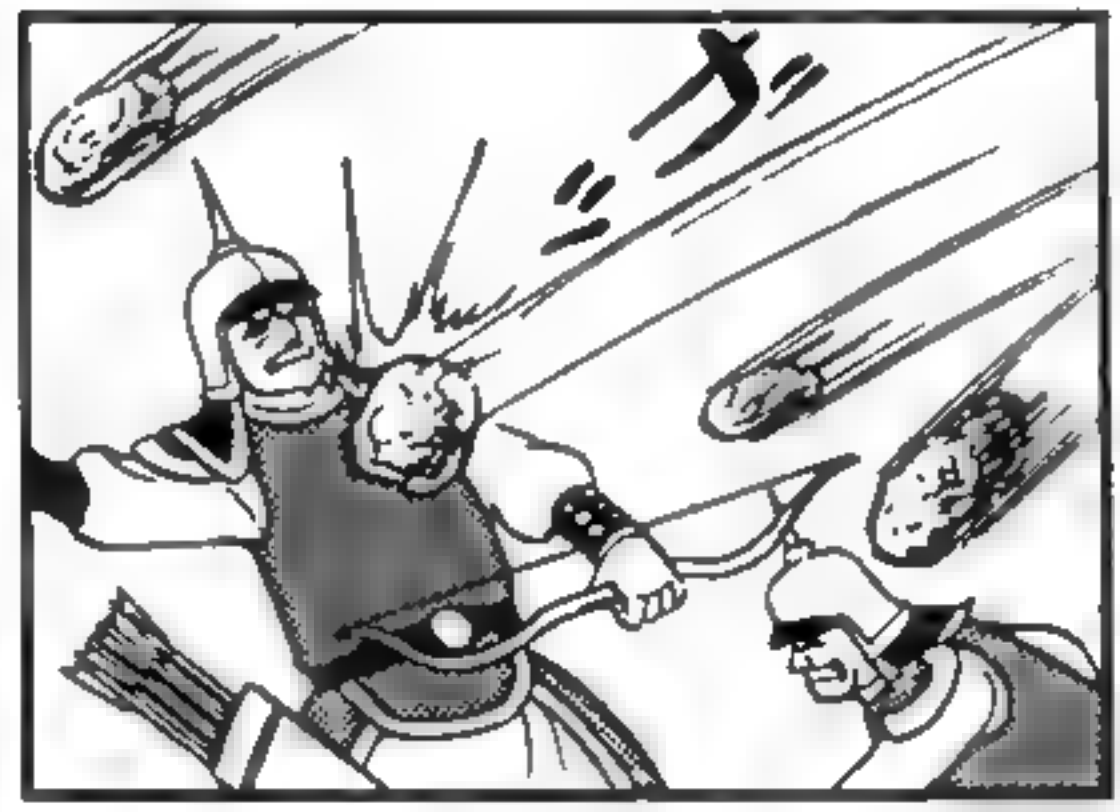
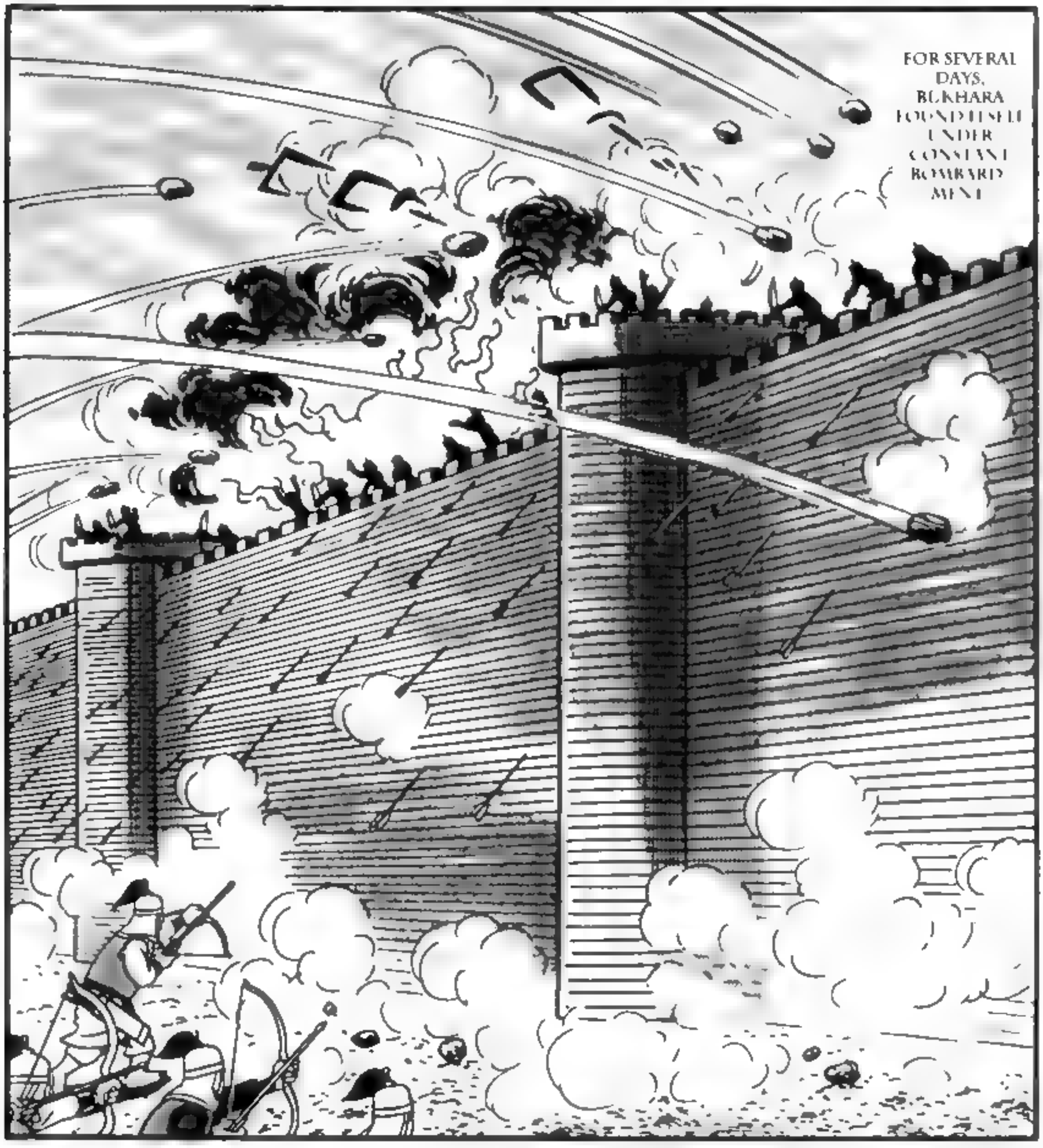



FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUKHARA FOUND ITSELF UNDER CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT

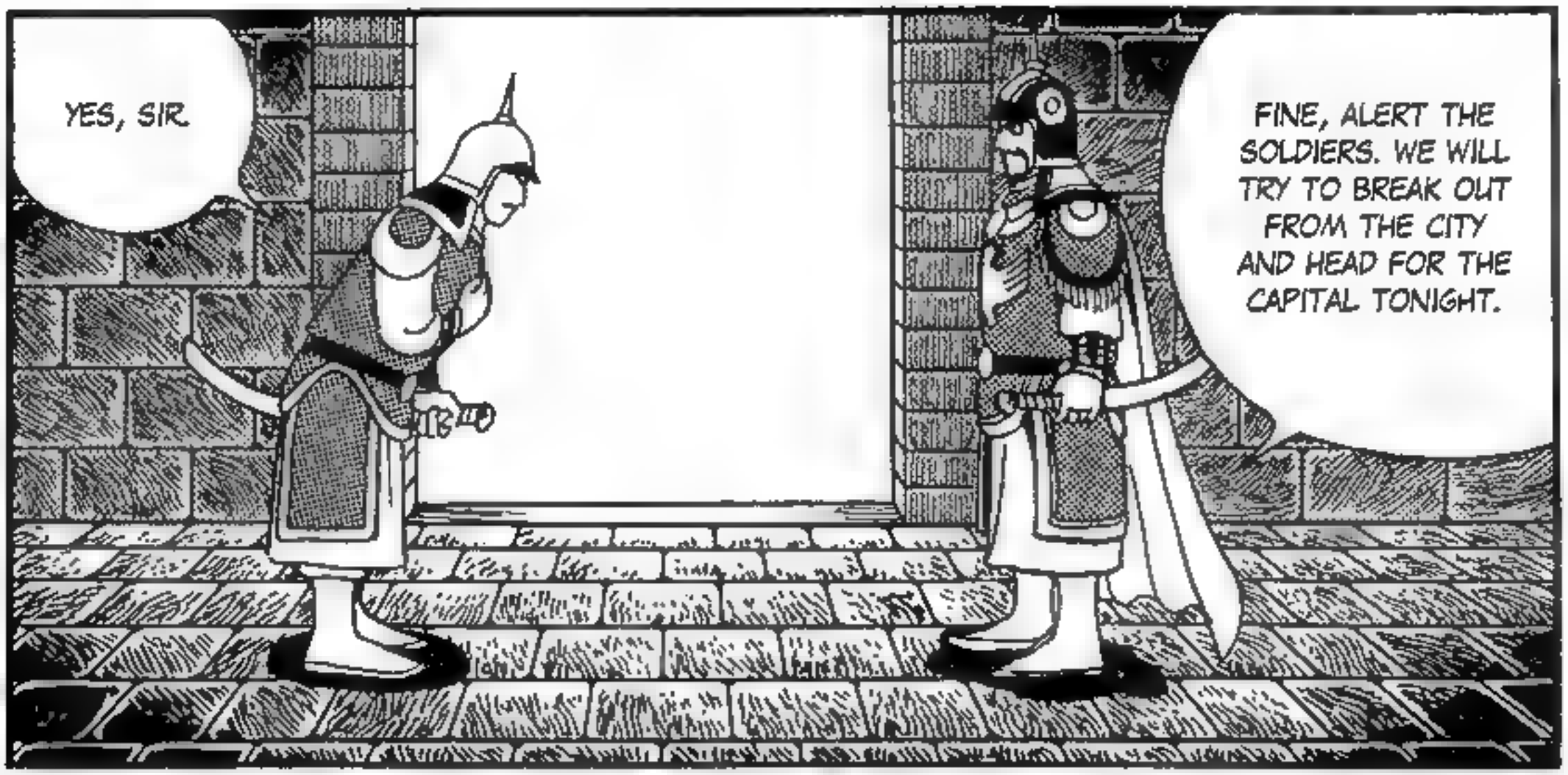
BUT WHAT'S DONE IS ALREADY DONE. WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

SIR, WE NEVER EXPECTED THOSE BARBARIC NOMADS TO POSSESS SUCH ADVANCED SIEGE ENGINES. WITH ONLY 20,000 SOLDIERS HERE, THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN HOLD THEM BACK INDEFINITELY.

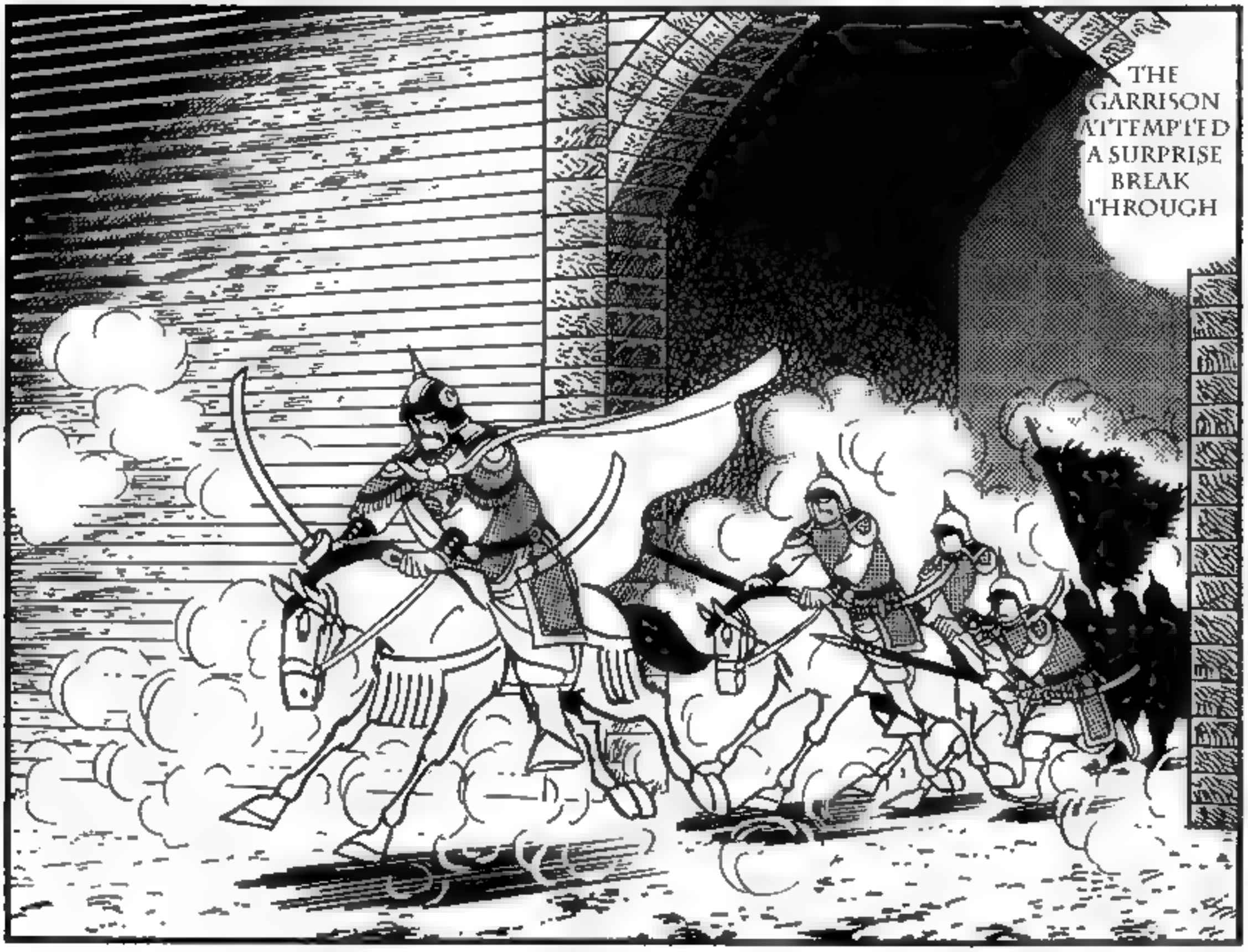
OUR ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL...

HMM...

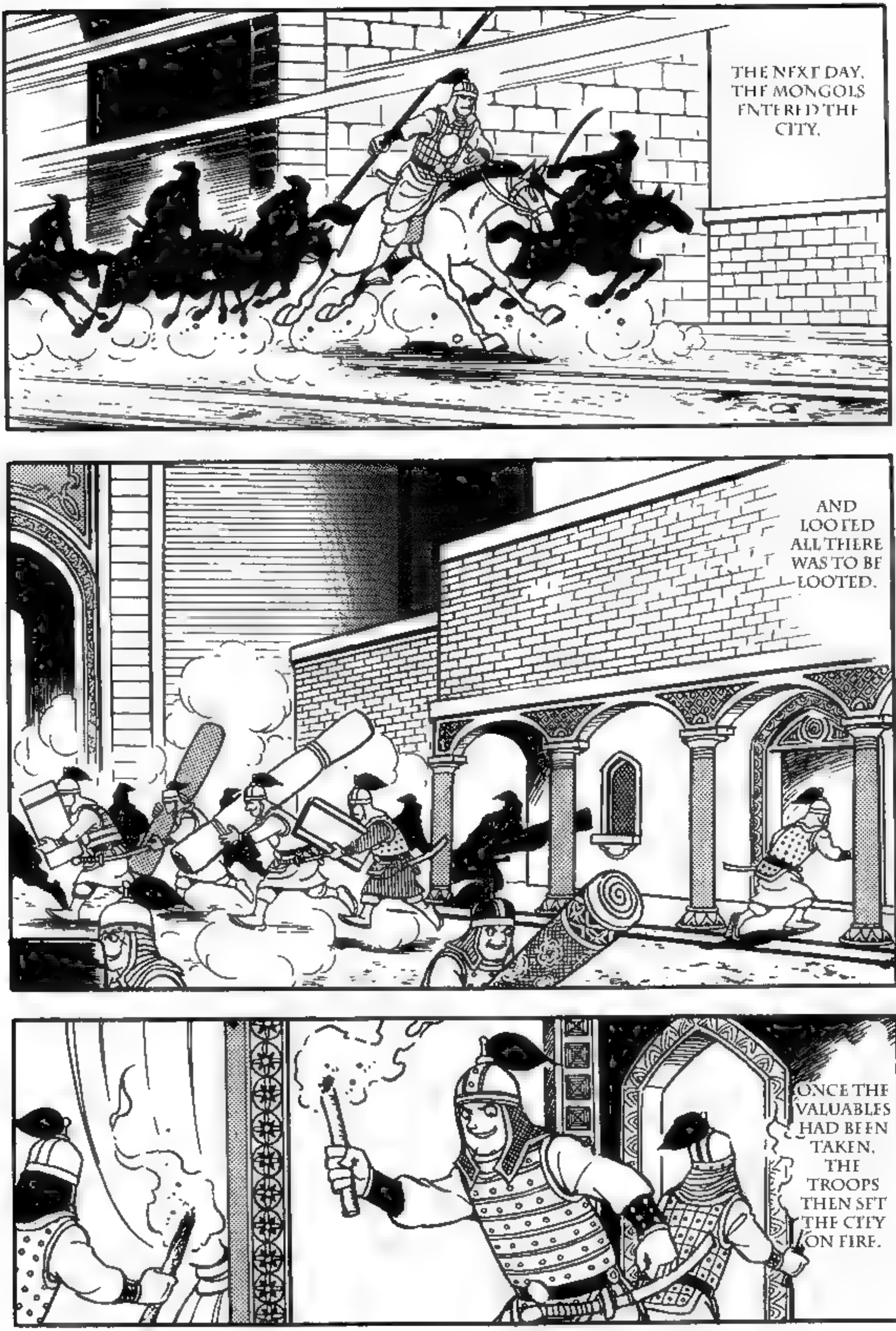
OUR ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL IS TO HAVE A PORTION OF OUR GARRISON BREAK THROUGH THEIR ENCIRCLE-MENT AT NIGHT AND COMBINE WITH OUR FORCES STATIONED AT SAMARKAND.



LATER THAT
DAY AT
NIGHT...



BUT TO CHALLENGE THE MONGOLS OUT IN THE OPEN WAS SHEER FOLLY
THE MONGOL CAVALRY CHASED THEM ALL THE WAY TO THE AMU DARYA WHERE THEY WERE ANN HILATED.


THE NEXT DAY, THE MONGOLS ENTERED THE CITY.
AND LOOTED ALL THERE WAS TO BE LOOTED.
ONCE THE VALUABLES HAD BEEN TAKEN, THE TROOPS THEN SET THE CITY ON FIRE.

BUKHARA WAS RAZED TO SHOW WHAT AWAITED THOSE WHO RESISTED THE MONGOLS

AFTER RAZING BUKHARA, CHINGGIS KHAN HEADED FOR THE KHWARAZM CAPITAL OF SAMARKAND

SAMARKAND WAS DEFENDED BY ABLE GENERALS COMMANDING 40,000 SOLDIERS.

THE MONGOLS QUICKLY SURROUNDED THE CITY AND LAY SIEGE TO IT JUST AS THEY DID IN BUKHARA.

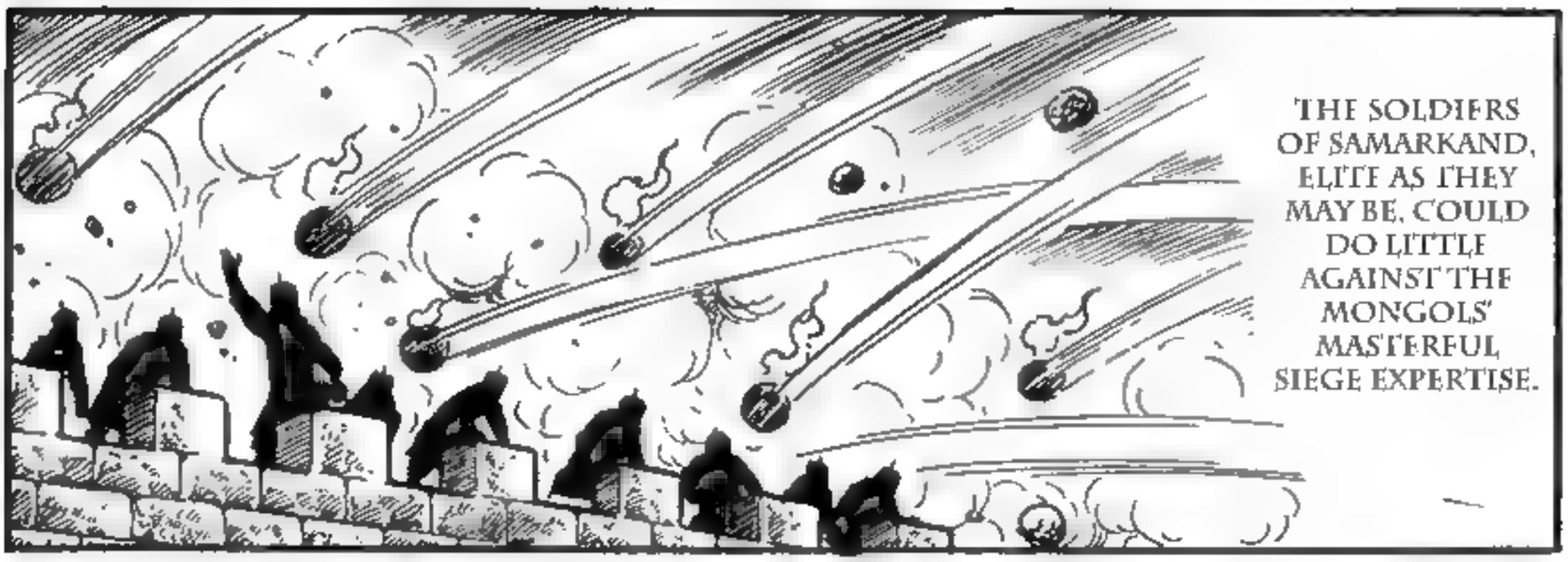
AS THE SIEGE PROGRESSED, CHINGGIS KHAN WAS JOINED BY JOCHI RETURNING FROM THE SUCCESSFUL SUBJUGATION OF THE LOWER REACHES OF SYR DARYA.

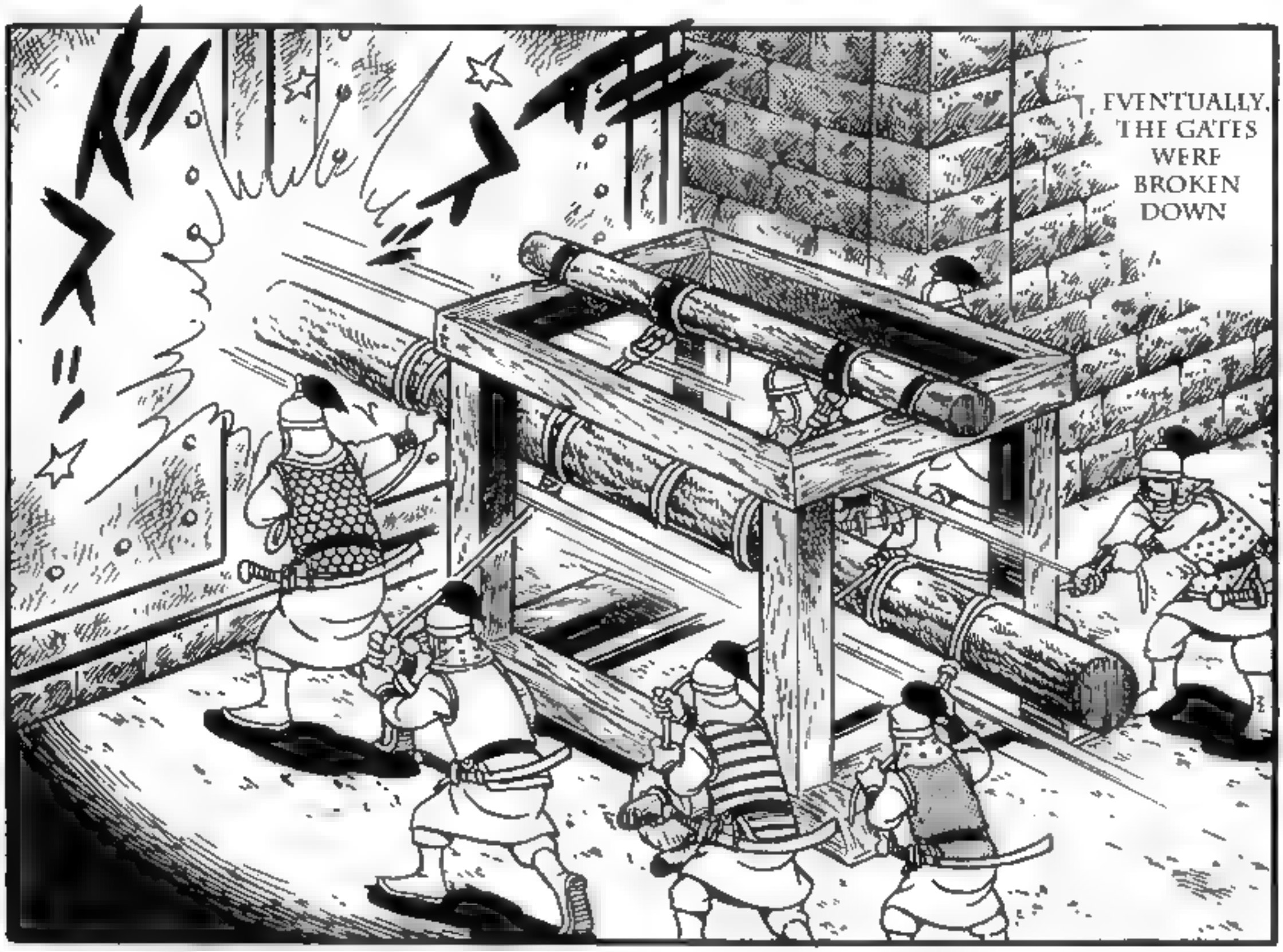
SOME WEEKS LATER, HE WAS JOINED BY CHAGHATAI AND ÖGÖDEI, RETURNING FROM THEIR SACK OF OTRAR.

AS WELL AS THE 3RD MONGOL ARMY, RETURNING FROM THE SUCCESSFUL SUBJUGATION OF THE UPPER REACHES OF SYR DARYA.

WITH ALL HIS FORCES NOW ASSEMBLED FOR THE SIEGE OF SAMARKAND, CHINGGIS ORDERED A FULL ASSAULT ON THE CITY

HAVING RECRUITED ADDITIONAL TROOPS FROM THE CONQUERED PEOPLES, THE LARGE MONGOL ARMY OVERWHELMED THE CITY'S GARRISON.


THE SOLDIERS OF SAMARKAND, ELITE AS THEY MAY BE, COULD DO LITTLE AGAINST THE MONGOLS' MASTERFUL SIEGE EXPERTISE.


EVENTUALLY, THE GATES WERE BROKEN DOWN

THE MONGOLS NOW STORMED IN THE CITY, SLAYING ALL THEY CAME ACROSS

AFTER THE KILLING CAME THE LOOTING.

IT APPEARS HE HAD ALREADY FLED BEFORE WE SURROUNDED THE CITY.

SHAH MUHAMMAD ISN'T HERE?

JEBE! SUBODAI!

I CANNOT WITHDRAW MY TROOPS UNTIL HE'S CAUGHT AND JUSTLY PUNISHED.

YES?

YES?

YES, KHAN.

I ORDER YOU TWO TO HUNT DOWN SHAH MUHAMMAD TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD, IF NEED BE.

JEBE AND SUBODAI IMMEDIATELY LED AN ARMY TO PURSUE THE FLEEING SHAH

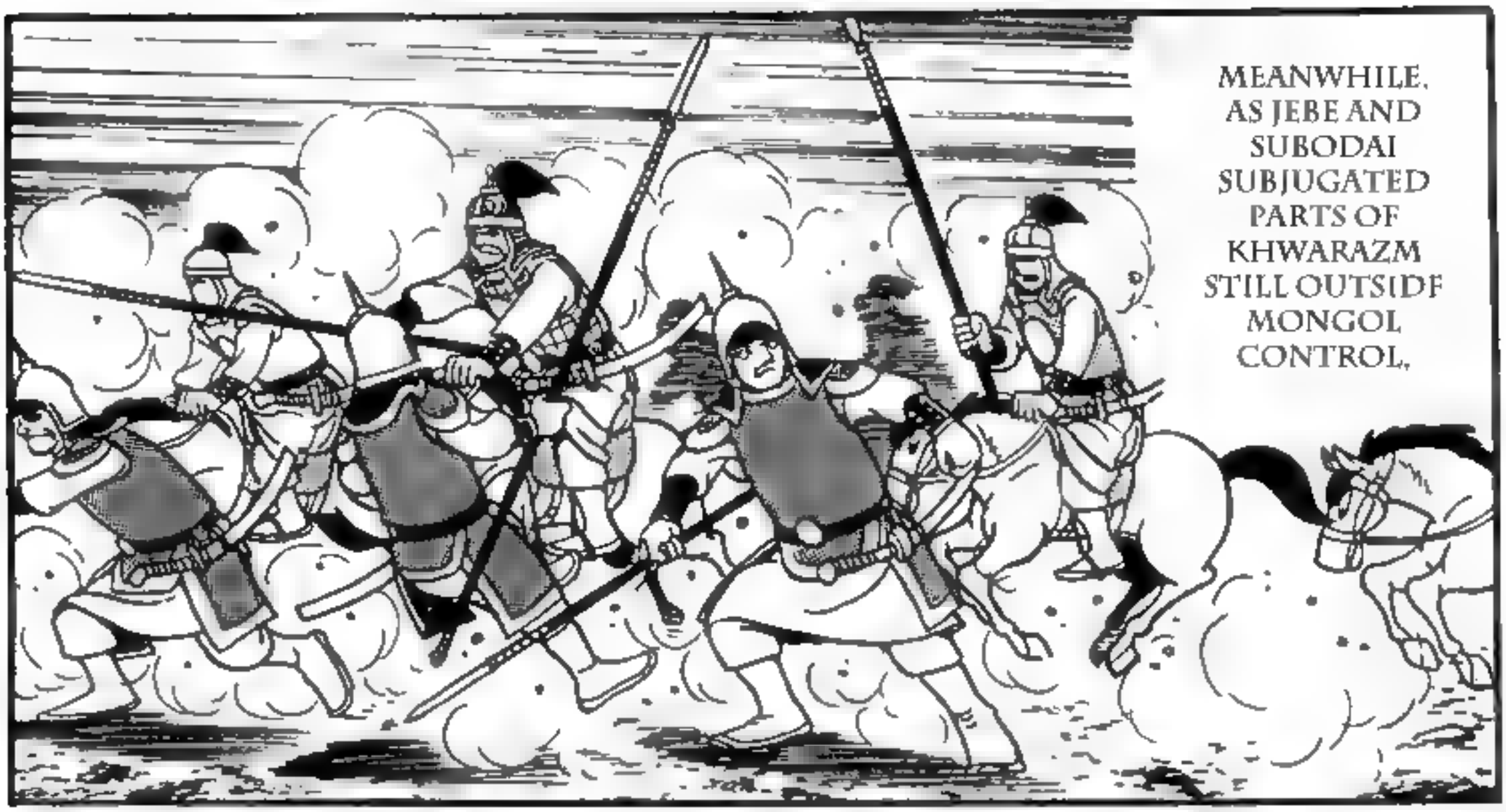
YES.

I HAVE NO USE FOR THIS CITY. BURN IT DOWN TO THE GROUND.

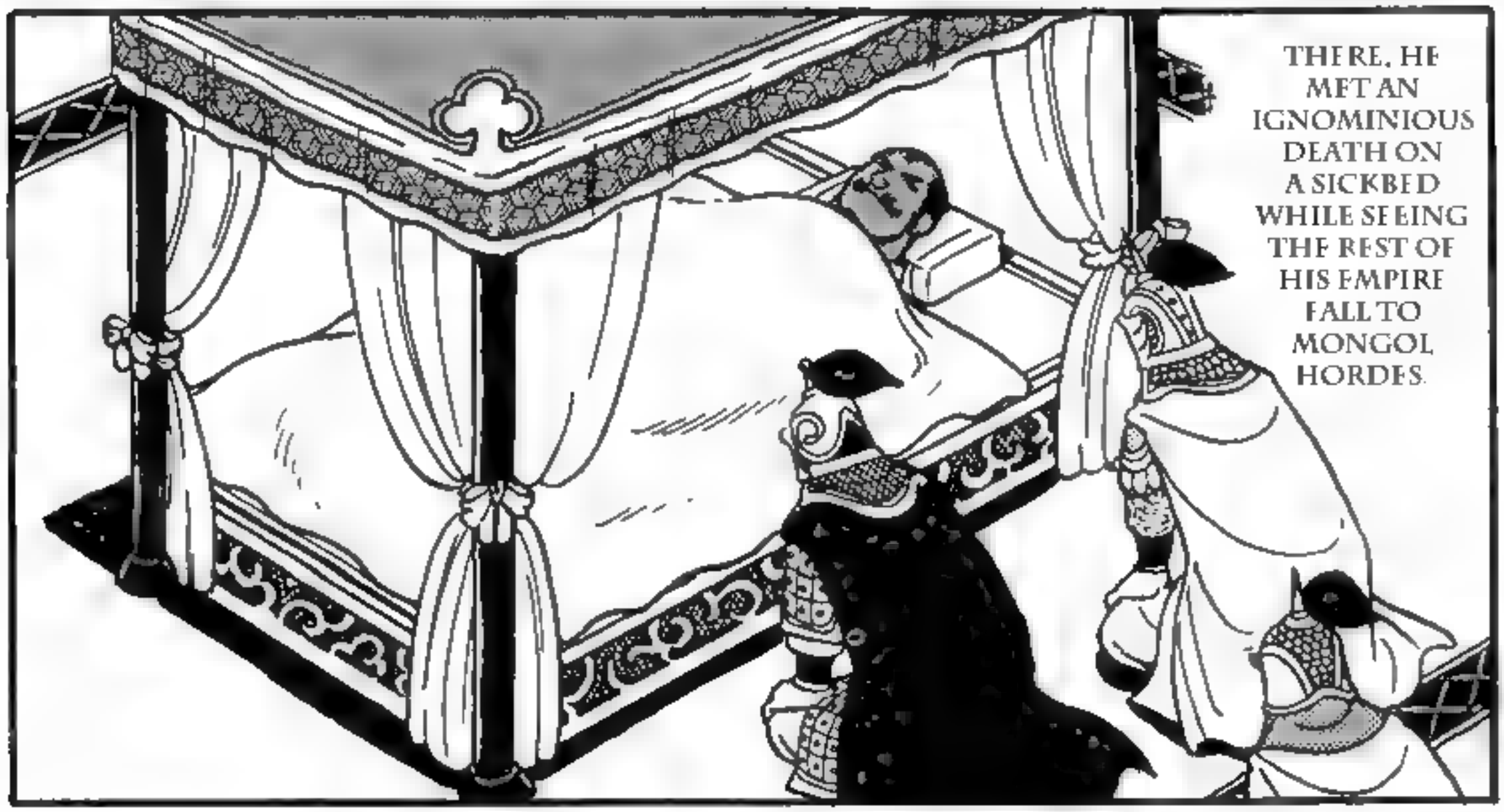
AND SO TOO, WAS SAMARKAND RAZED

CHINGGIS KHAN THEN TOOK A TEMPORARY BREAK IN THE STEPPES OF KHWARAZM

UNLIKE BUKHARA OR SAMARKAND WHICH WERE OF NO VALUE TO THE NOMADS, THE STEPPE WERE THE VERY LIFE BLOOD FOR THEIR BELOVED HORSES.


MEANWHILE, AS JEBE AND SUBODAI SUBJUGATED PARTS OF KHWARAZM STILL OUTSIDE MONGOL CONTROL,

THE KHWARAZMIAN SHAH MANAGED TO SAFELY ESCAPE TO A SMALL ISLAND IN THE CASPIAN SEA.


THERE, HE MET AN IGNOMINIOUS DEATH ON A SICKBED WHILE SEEING THE REST OF HIS EMPIRE FALL TO MONGOL HORDES.

Death of a Conqueror

1223 AD.

YES, FATHER.

ÖGÖDEI, IT'S ALREADY BEEN 5 LONG YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAW THE BURKHAN KALDUN MOUNTAINS.

YES, WE'VE TURNED THE REMAINING NOBLES ON OUR SIDE AND ALL REVOLTS HAVE BEEN PUT DOWN BY NOW.

HAVE ALL THE KHWARAZMIAN CITIES BEEN PACIFIED?

JOCHI HAS BEEN BUSY CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE KIPCHAK TURKS FOR SUPPORTING THE KHWARAZMIAN SHAH, WHILE JEBE AND SUBODAI HAVE RODE OUT EVEN FARTHER WEST TO THE LANDS OF THE RUS.

GOOD... AND WHERE IS JOCHI, JEBE, AND SUBODAI RIGHT NOW?

AH, JEBE! TRUE TO YOUR NAME, YOU FLY LIKE AN ARROW WITHOUT STOPPING.

THE RUS?

*RUS: PARTS OF MODERN-DAY RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

LET HIM IN.

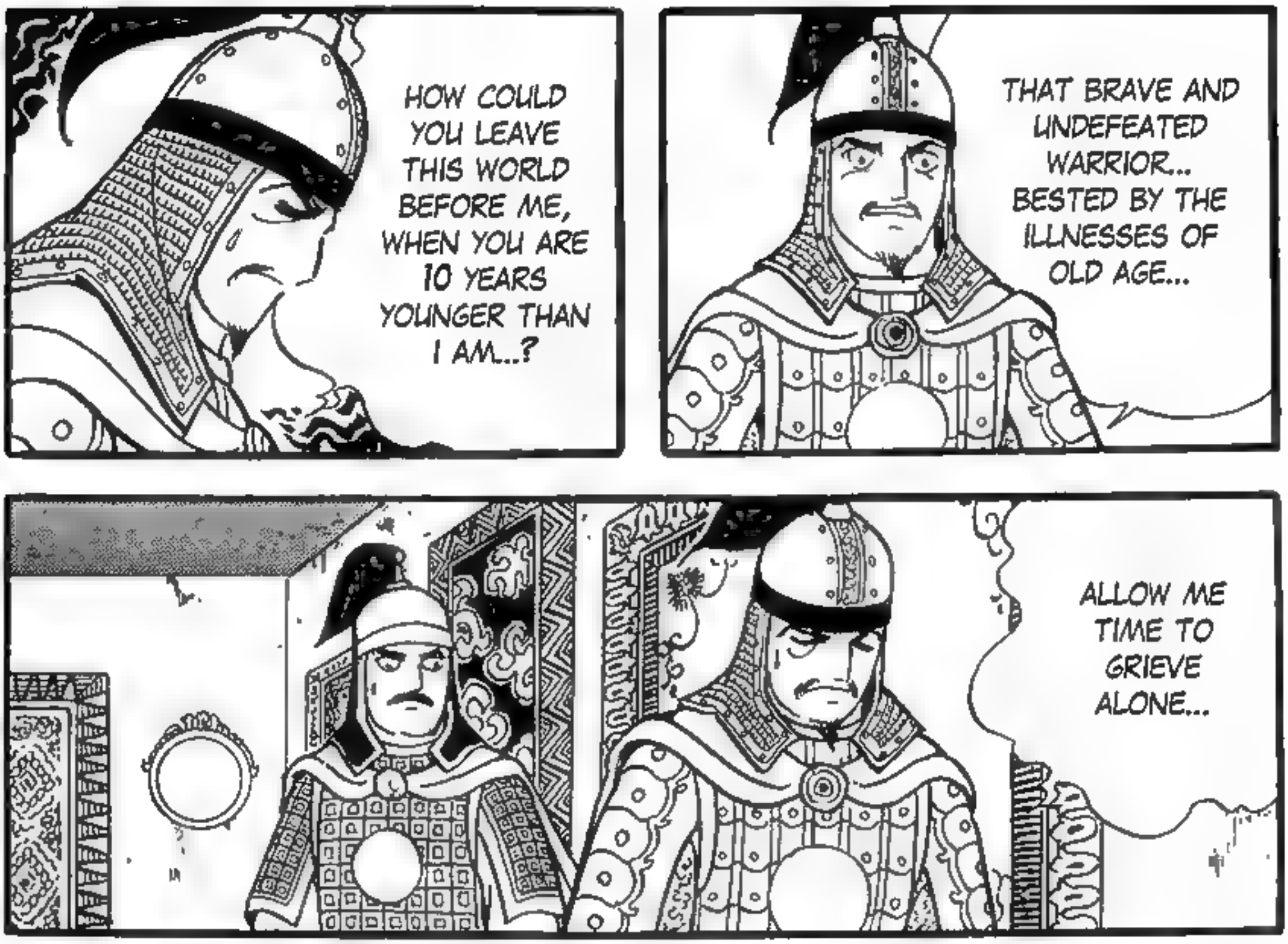
A MESSENGER FROM GENERAL MUKALI HAS ARRIVED, SIR.

WHAT!

I REGRET TO INFORM MY KHAN THAT COMMANDER MUKALI IN CHARGE OF OUR ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE JIN HAS FALLEN ILL AND PASSED AWAY.

YES...

M-MUKALI IS DEAD...!?


HOW COULD YOU LEAVE THIS WORLD BEFORE ME, WHEN YOU ARE 10 YEARS YOUNGER THAN I AM...?
THAT BRAVE AND UNDEFEATED WARRIOR... BESTED BY THE ILLNESSES OF OLD AGE...
ALLOW ME TIME TO GRIEVE ALONE...
THE DEATH OF MUKALI WAS A GREAT SHOCK TO CHINGGIS KHAN. WITH BO'ORCHU AND JELME BOTH GETTING ON IN THEIR YEARS, MUKALI WAS THE NEXT MOST ABLE GENERAL HE WAS COUNTING UPON

SPRING OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR

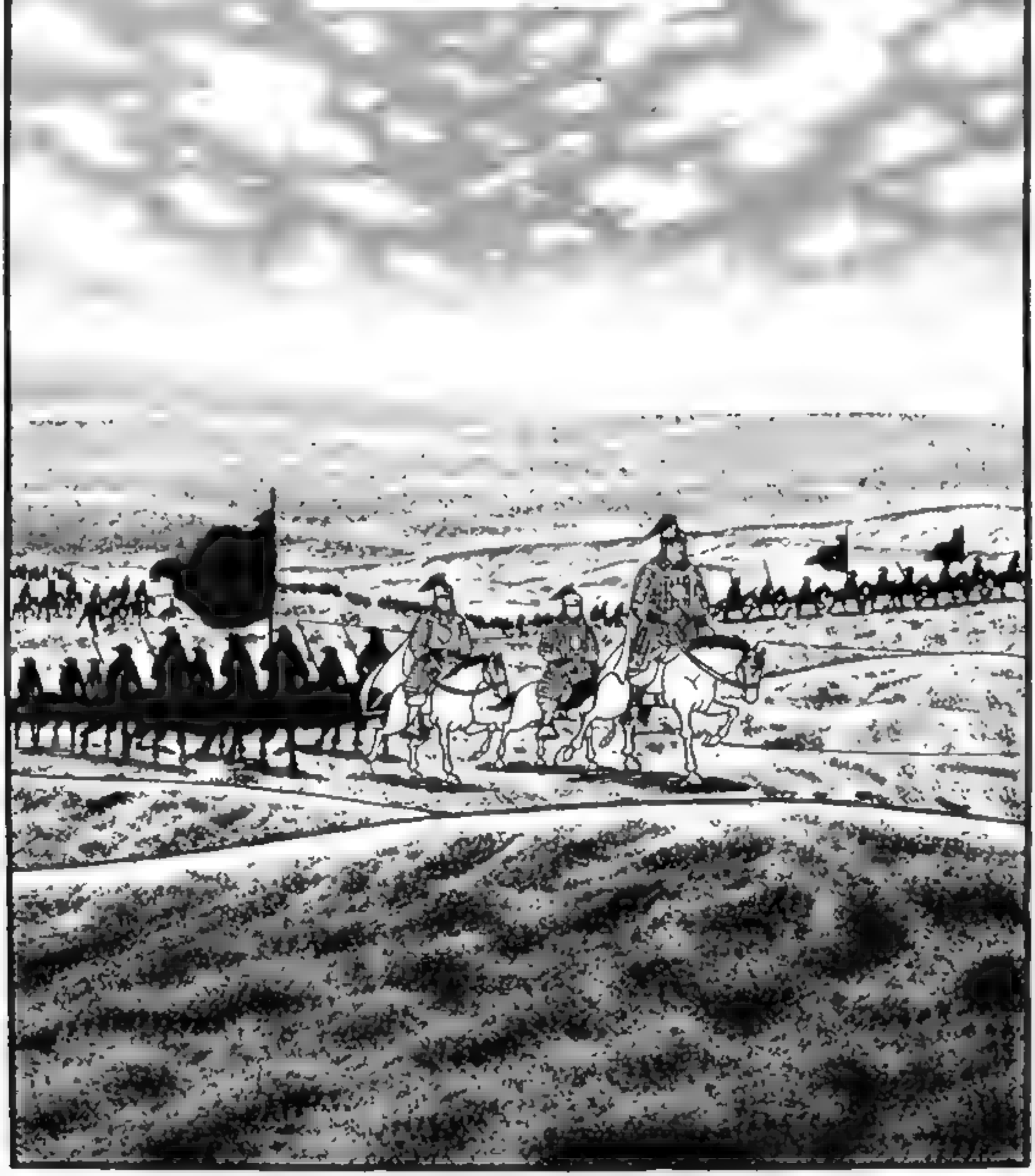
YES, FATHER.

ÖGÖDEI, NOW THAT KHWARAZM HAS BEEN SUBJUGATED, I AM THINKING OF RETURNING TO OUR HOMELANDS.

YES, I WILL DISPATCH A MESSENGER AT ONCE.

SEND OUT ORDERS FOR JEBE AND SUBODAI TO WITHDRAW BACK HOME AS WELL. OTHERWISE, THOSE WARRIORS WOULD SURELY TRAVEL TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.

AND SO, ON THE 6TH YEAR SINCE BEGINNING THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN, CHINGGIS KHAN CALLED FOR A RETURN TO MONGOLIA.



IRTYSH RIVER

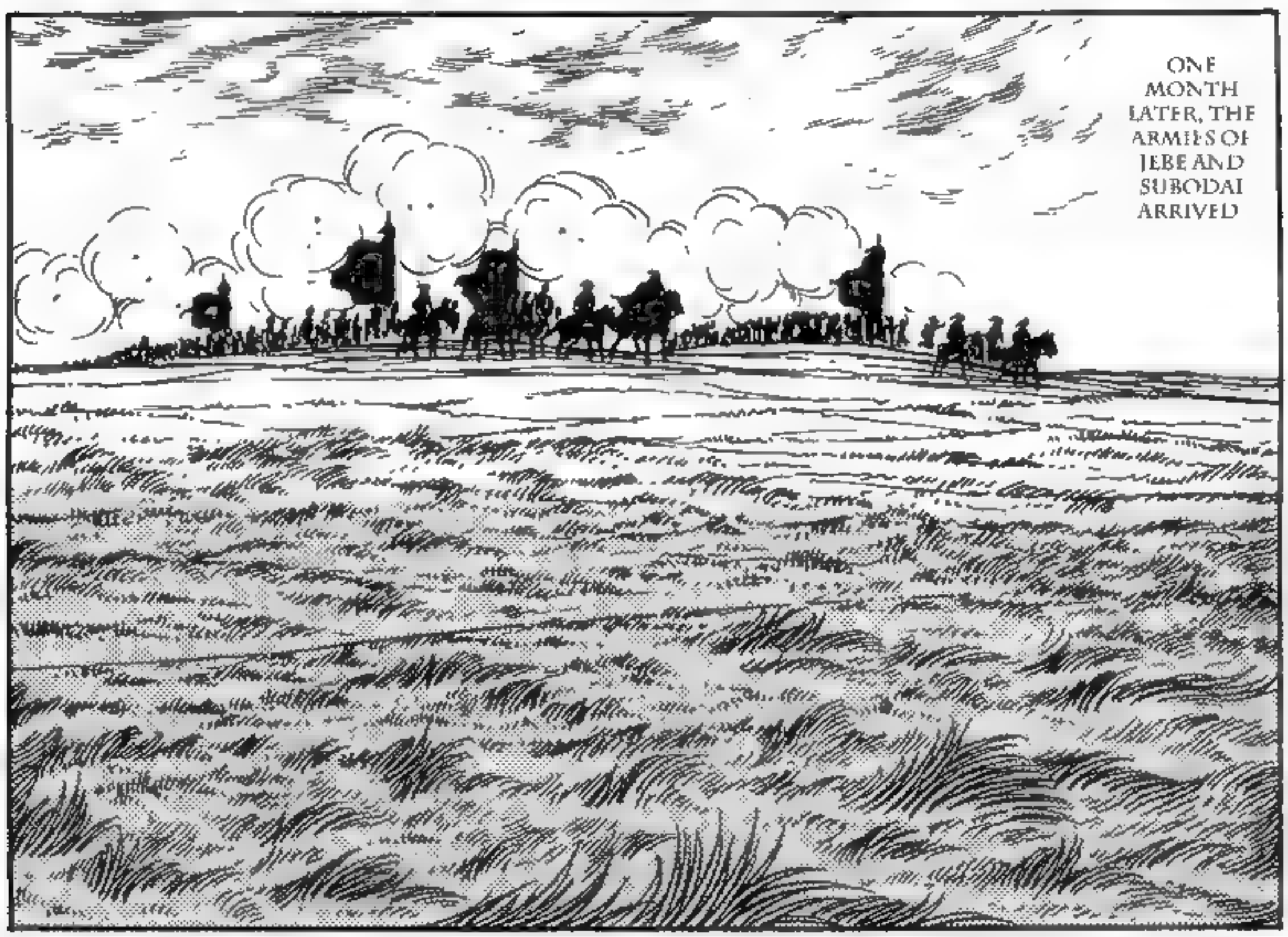
THE LANDS OF THE RUS ARE QUITE FAR AWAY, FATHER. IT WILL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER FOR THEM TO ARRIVE HERE, I ASSUME.

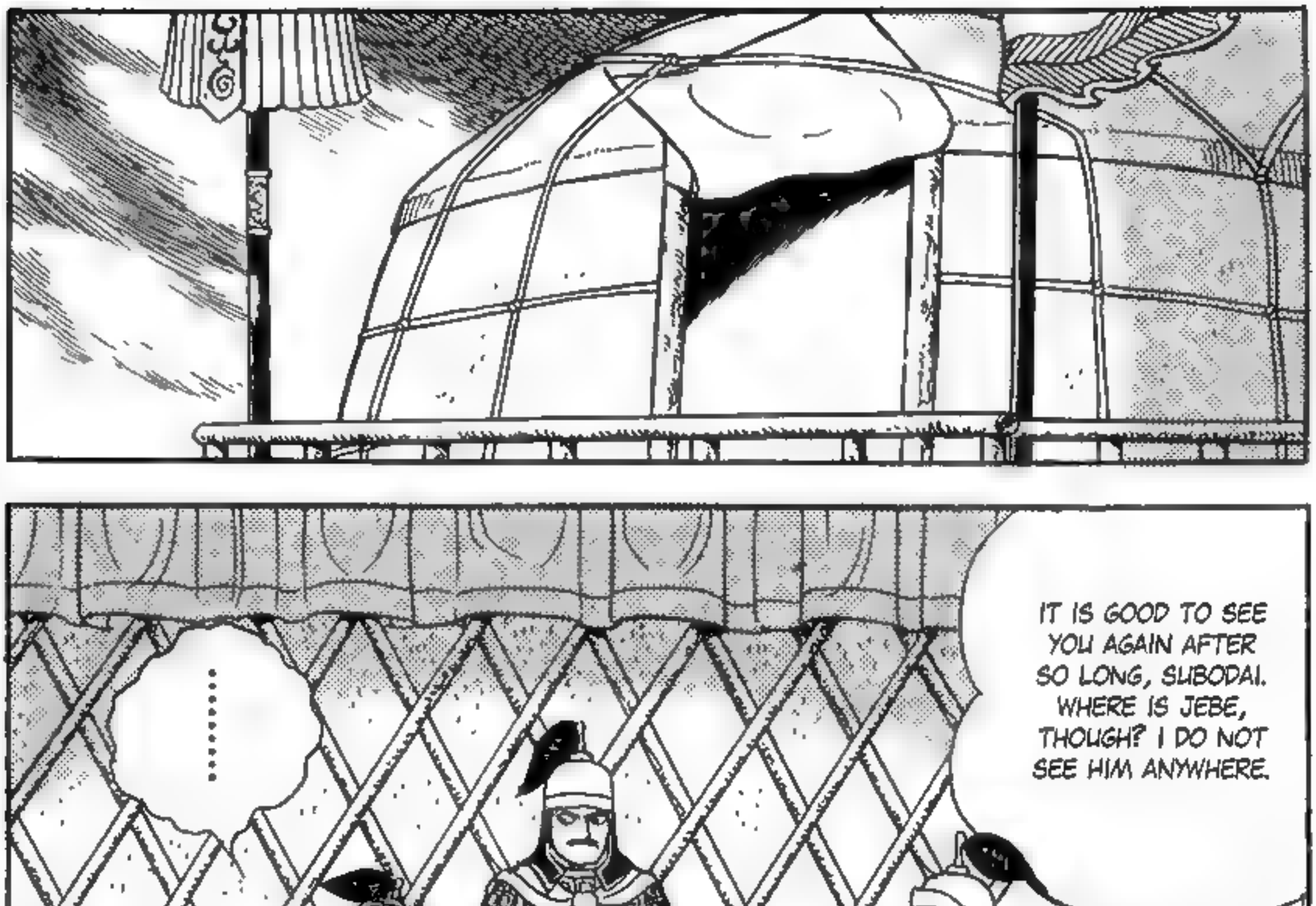
WHY HAVE JOCHI, JEBE, AND SUBODAI NOT ARRIVED YET? DID THEY NOT RECEIVE THE ORDER TO REGROUP HERE AT THE IRTYSH RIVER?

EXCELLENT IDEA, FATHER.

AH YES, OF COURSE. WELL, LET US ENJOY OURSELVES HUNTING WHILE WE WAIT FOR THEM THEN.

HERE, CHINGGIS KHAN CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH DAILY HUNTS WHILE WAITING FOR HIS ARMIES TO ARRIVE


ONE MONTH LATER, THE ARMIES OF JEBE AND SUBODAI ARRIVED


IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER SO LONG, SUBODAI. WHERE IS JEBE, THOUGH? I DO NOT SEE HIM ANYWHERE.
.....

WHAT!?

JEBE HAS PASSED AWAY...

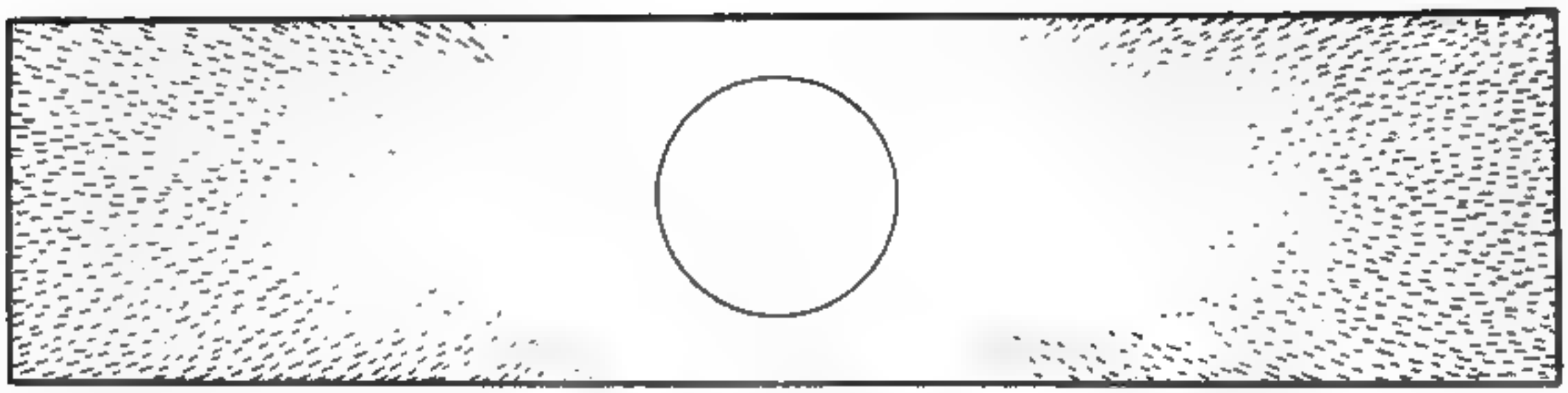
NO, IT WAS A SICKNESS OF OLD AGE...

WAS HE KILLED IN BATTLE!?

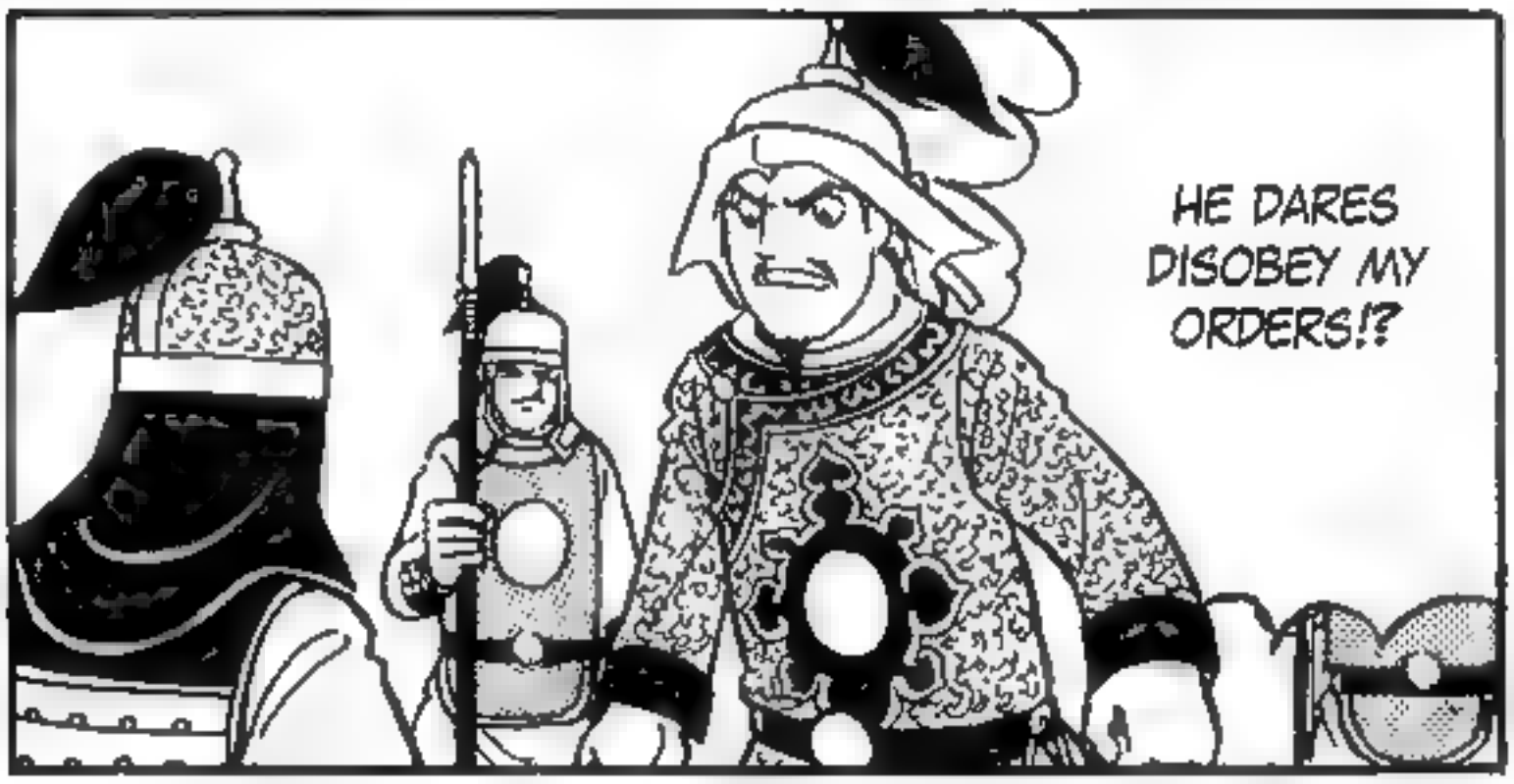
GIVE ME SOME TIME TO SIT ALONE!

FIRST, MUKALI, AND NOW, JEBE...

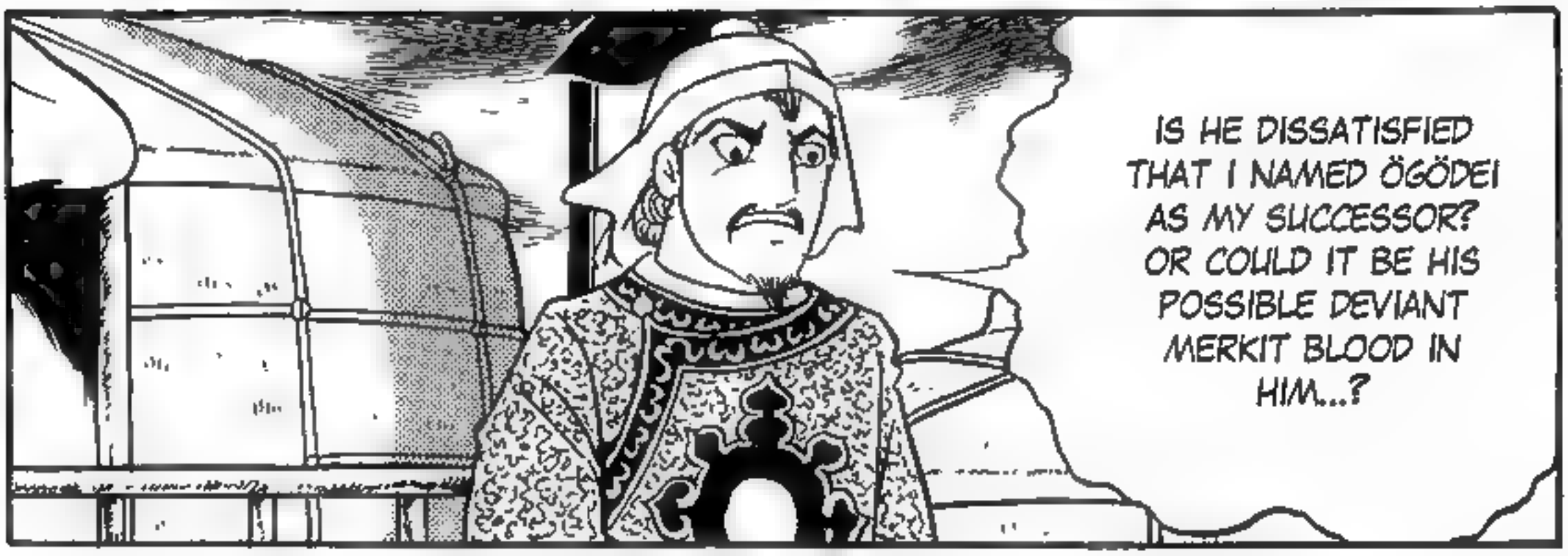
WITH BOTH JEBE AND MUKALI GONE, I FEEL AS IF BOTH MY ARMS HAVE BEEN TORN APART FROM ME...

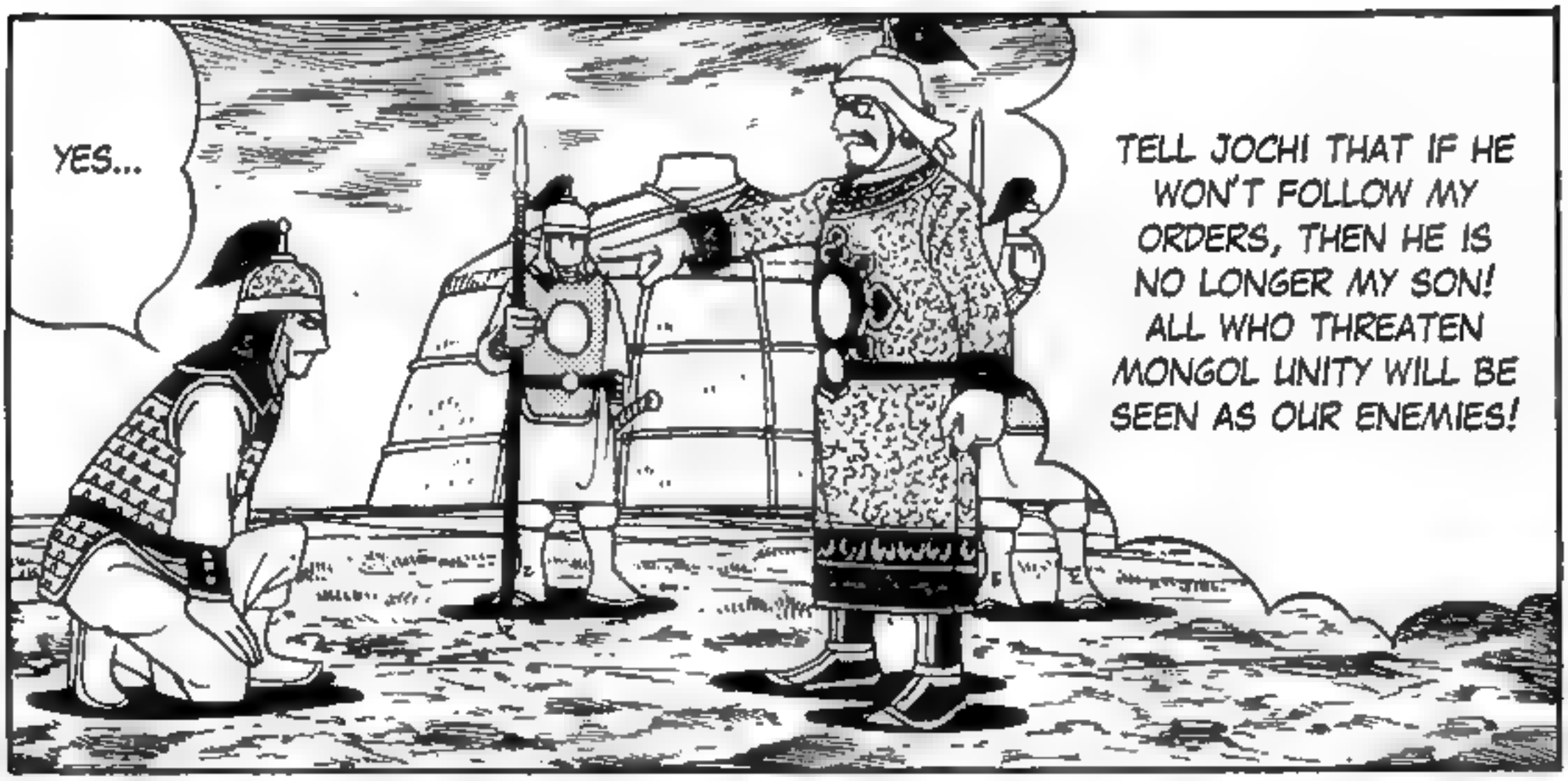


I'VE HEARD THAT HE IS SPENDING HIS TIME HUNTING ON THE PONTIC-CASPIAN STEPPE.
WHY HAS JOCHI STILL NOT ARRIVED!?

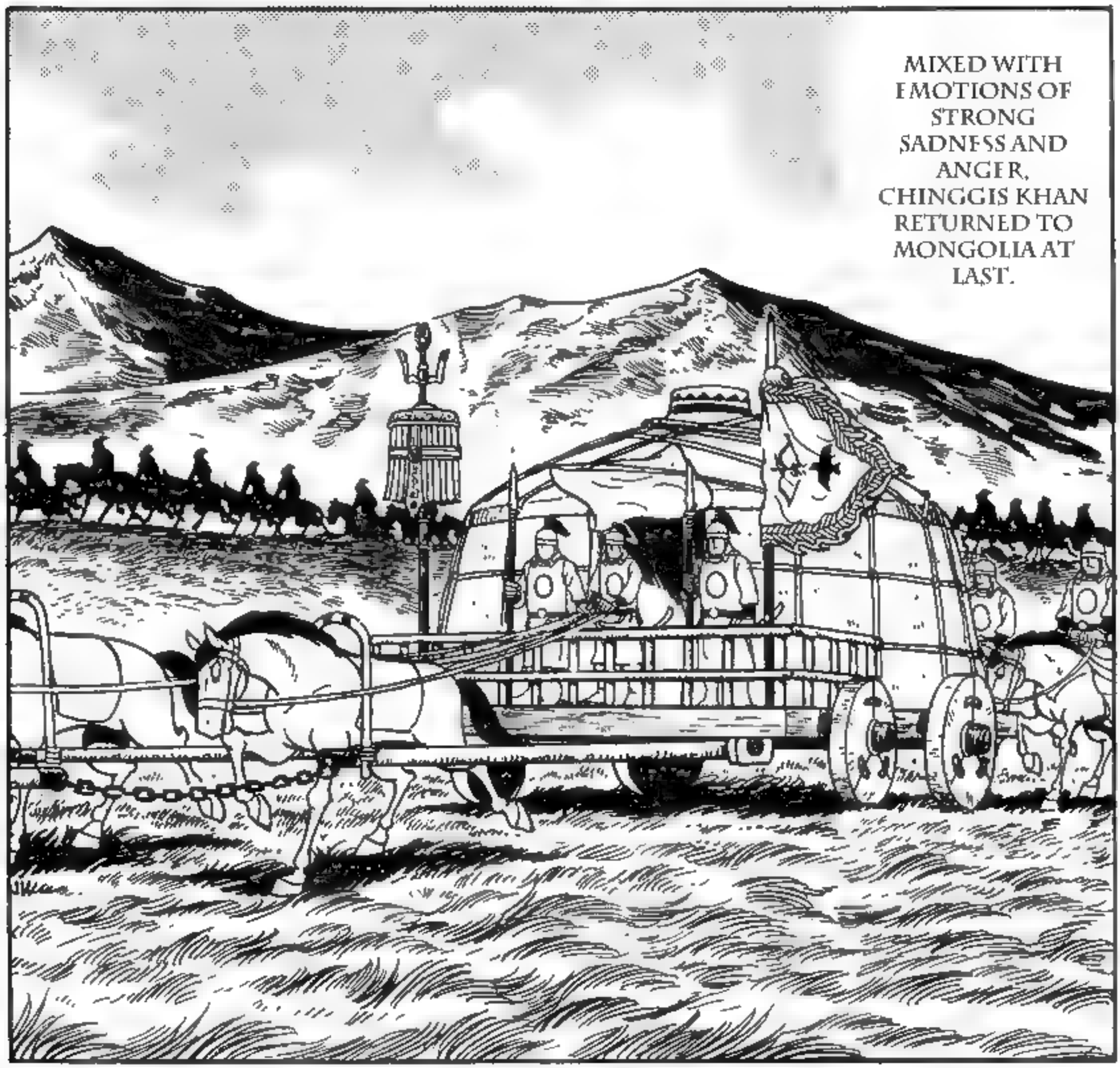

HE DARES DISOBEY MY ORDERS!?

WHAT!


IS HE DISSATISFIED THAT I NAMED ÖGÖDEI AS MY SUCCESSOR? OR COULD IT BE HIS POSSIBLE DEVIANT MERKIT BLOOD IN HIM...?


YES...
TELL JOCHI THAT IF HE WON'T FOLLOW MY ORDERS, THEN HE IS NO LONGER MY SON! ALL WHO THREATEN MONGOL UNITY WILL BE SEEN AS OUR ENEMIES!

MIXED WITH EMOTIONS OF STRONG SADNESS AND ANGER, CHINGGIS KHAN RETURNED TO MONGOLIA AT LAST.



1225

YES...

JOCHI HAS PASSED AWAY!?

JOCHI HAD BEEN BATTLING A CHRONIC ILLNESS FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS NOW, BUT HIS PRIDE AS A DESCENDANT OF THE BLUE GRAY WOLF DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO CEASE HIS CAMPAIGN AND REST.

WHEN HE RECEIVED YOUR CALL TO REGROUP AT IRTYSH RIVER, HE WAS ALREADY TOO ILL TO MAKE SUCH A LONG JOURNEY. STILL, HE TRIED TO LIE ABOUT HIS HEALTH TO YOUR MESSENGERS BY GOING OUT ON HUNTS.

ENOUGH. SAY NO MORE...

BEFORE HE DIED, HE WISHED THAT HIS FATHER WOULD SEE HIM NOT AS THE SON OF THE HATED MERKITS, BUT AS ONE OF HIS OWN...

YES, CHINGGIS KHAN. THIS MAY BE WHY WESTERN XIA REFUSED TO JOIN YOU ON YOUR WESTERN CAMPAIGN.

A SECRET ALLIANCE BETWEEN WESTERN XIA AND JIN!?

I WILL NOT ALLOW WESTERN XIA TO ACT AS IT PLEASES ANY LONGER! I WILL CRUSH THEM FOR GOOD SO AS TO SECURE OUR WESTERN TRADE ROUTES AND PREVENT ANY INTERFERENCE TO OUR ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE JIN!

MOBILIZE ALL OUR FORCES! WE WILL MARCH FOR WESTERN XIA IMMEDIATELY!

SO THEY WISH TO JOIN HANDS AND PUSH US BACK OUT TO THE NORTH, DO THEY...!?

ONCE AGAIN, THE MONGOLS HEADED FOR WESTERN XIA.

THE MONGOL ARMY WAS STRONGER THAN EVER, AFTER THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN

CROSSING THE DESERT THAT SEPARATED THEM IN A FLASH.

THE MONGOLS MERCILESSLY SACKED EVERY CITY THEY COULD FIND.

WITHIN A YEAR, MOST CITIES HAD BEEN CONQUERED AND THE MONGOLS NOW AIMED FOR THE CAPITAL OF WESTERN XIA.

AT WHAT?

ÖGÖDEI, LOOK.

BEHOLD THE MONGOL ARMY I HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE RAISING. WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT IS THIS WORLD'S STRONGEST ARMY.

OF COURSE.

MY ARMIES WILL NOT ONLY FINISH OFF WESTERN XIA AND JIN, BUT ALSO KINGDOMS AND EMPIRES FURTHER BEYOND.

NGHH...

FATHER!

SOMEBODY! COME QUICK!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, FATHER!?

HAVE YOU REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, FATHER?

MNN...

MUKALI, JEBE, AND EVEN JOCHI, WHO WERE ALL YOUNGER THAN ME, HAVE ALREADY ASCENDED ABOVE. I'VE ALREADY LIVED FAR LONGER THAN MOST...

DO NOT UTTER SUCH WEAK WORDS, FATHER!

YES, BUT IT SEEMS THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE HEAVENS TO RECEIVE ME...

IF I HAVE BUT ONE REGRET, IT IS THAT I COULD NOT LIVE TO SEE THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE JIN EMPIRE.

AFTER I DIE, PLACE MY BODY IN A COFFIN AND HIDE MY DEATH. ONLY AFTER OUR ARMY HAS RETURNED TO MONGOLIA, YOU MAY ANNOUNCE MY DEATH.

ÖGÖDEI, FROM NOW ON, YOU MUST GOVERN THE EMPIRE. HEED THE WORDS OF ILA CHUZAI WELL. THAT MAN IS WISE AND WILL GUIDE YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH TO TAKE.

FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER, CHINGGIS KHAN'S FEVER ROSE HIGHER AND HIS HEALTH DEBILITATED, DESPITE CLOSE CARE BY SEVERAL PHYSICIANS.

PERHAPS IT WAS ALL THOSE YEARS OF FIGHTING IN THE SWELTERING HEAT AND THE STINGING COLD TAKING ITS TOLL ON HIS BODY... OR PERHAPS THE HEAVENS ORDAINED THAT HIS TIME HAD COME. WHATEVER THE CAUSE, CHINGGIS KHAN DREW HIS LAST BREATH IN THE SUMMER OF 1227

HIS BODY WAS PLACED INSIDE A CORPSE, BUT NONE OUTSIDE HIS IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE KNEW THAT IT WAS THE KHAN WHO HAD PASSED AWAY.

HIS COFFIN WAS PLACED ON A CART AND CARRIED ACROSS THE DESERT TO THE [illegible] WHILE ESCORTED BY HIS PERSONAL BODYGUARDS.

ALONG THE JOURNEY BACK, ALL PEOPLE AND ANIMALS WHO CAME ACROSS THEIR PATH WERE KILLED.

THIS WAS PARTLY TO PREVENT WORD OF HIS DEATH FROM SPREADING, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE THE KHAN WITH SERVANTS IN THE AFTERLIFE.

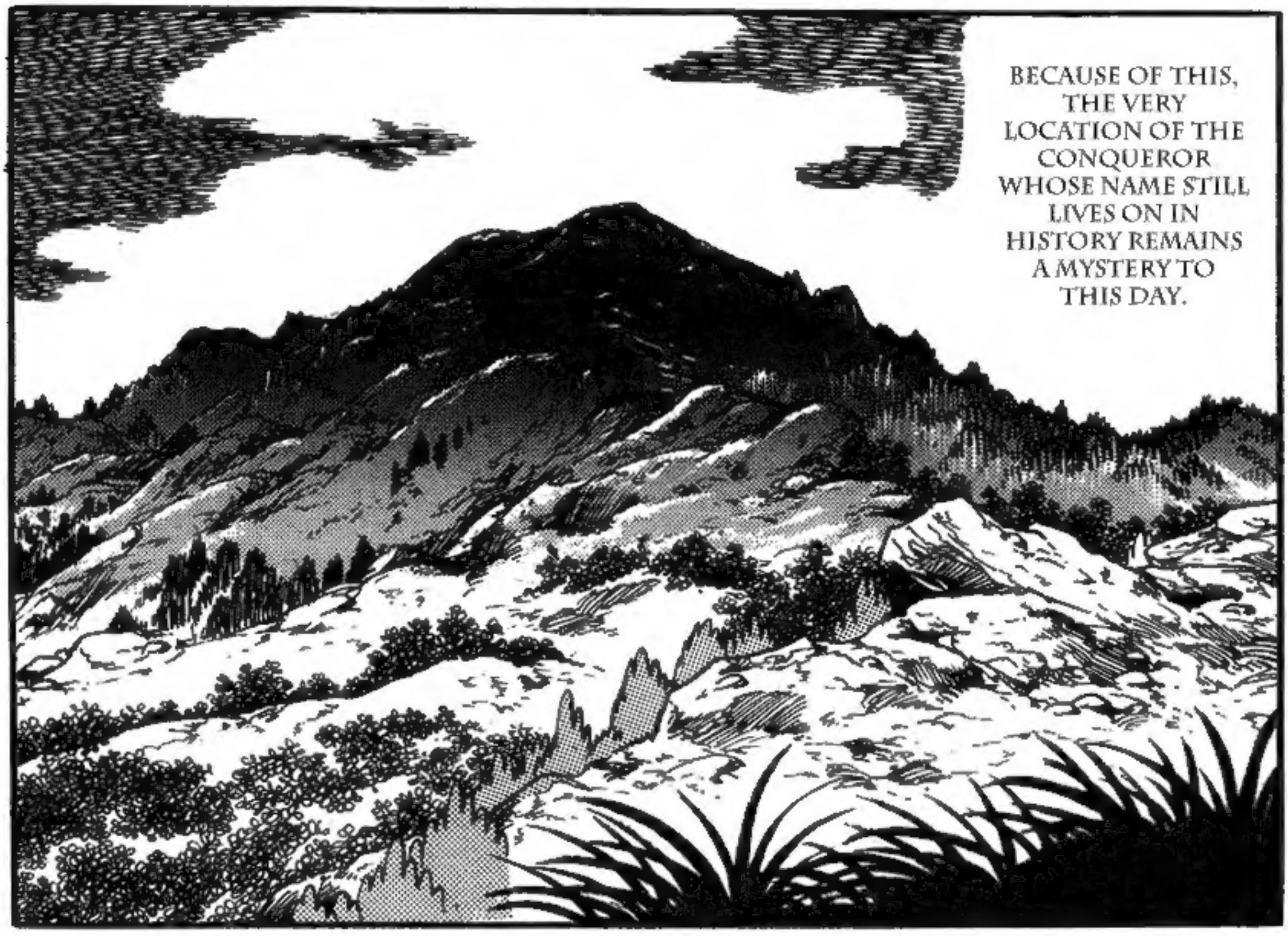
UPON ARRIVING AT THE SACRED BURKHAN KALDUN IN OCTOBER, THEY ANNOUNCED HIS DEATH AND CARRIED OUT A FUNERAL.

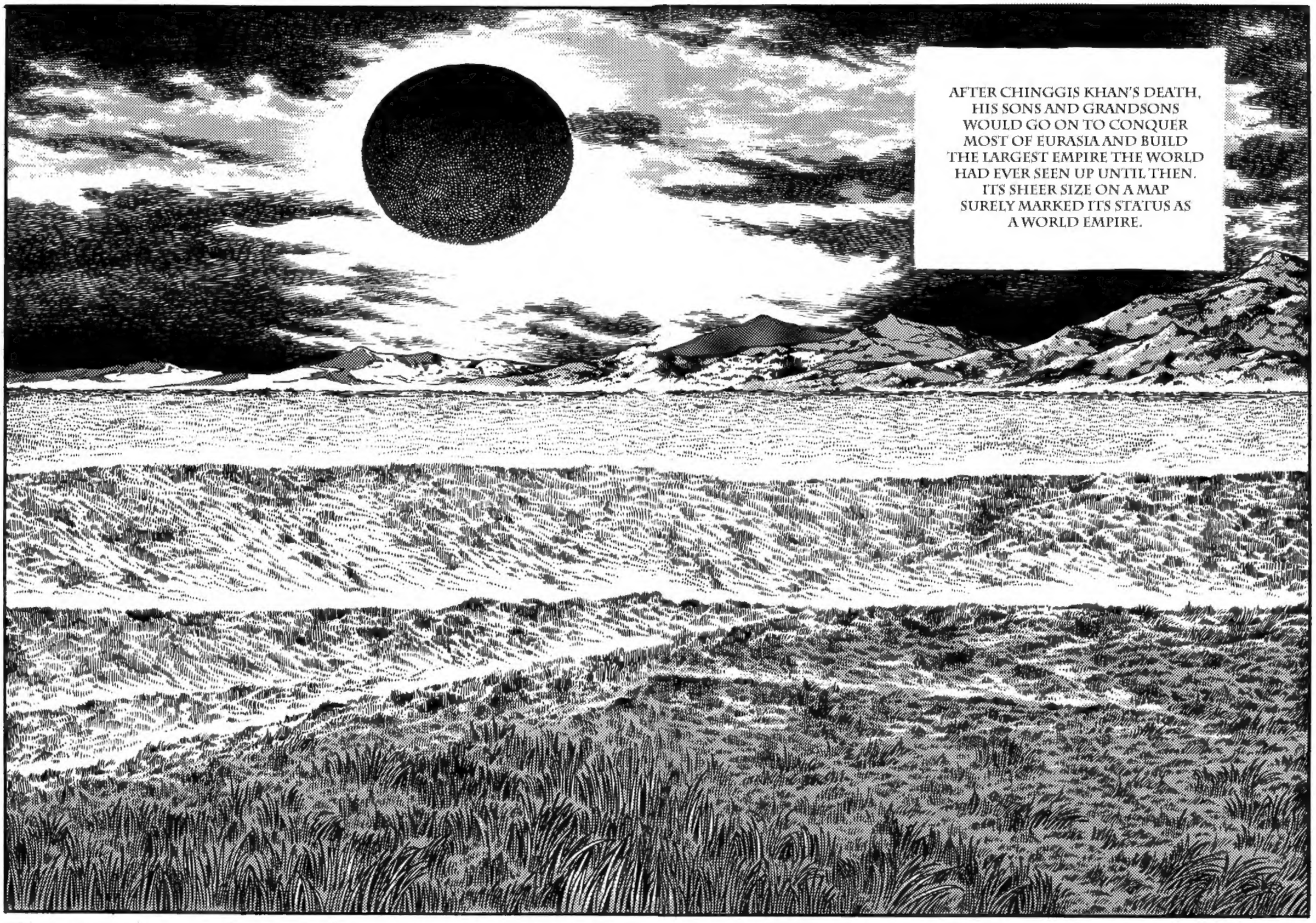
KINGS, PRINCES, AND GENERALS ALL ACROSS LANDS CONQUERED BY THE MONGOLS ARRIVED TO PAY THEIR DUE RESPECTS.

THE FUNERAL WAS CARRIED OUT FOR 3 MONTHS,

BEFORE HIS BODY WAS FINALLY BURIED BELOW.

ABOVE HIS BURIAL SITE, TREES WERE PLANTED TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHERE HIS GRAVE WAS.


BECAUSE OF THIS, THE VERY LOCATION OF THE CONQUEROR WHOSE NAME STILL LIVES ON IN HISTORY REMAINS A MYSTERY TO THIS DAY.


AFTER CHINGGIS KHAN'S DEATH, HIS SONS AND GRANDSONS WOULD GO ON TO CONQUER MOST OF EURASIA AND BUILD THE LARGEST EMPIRE THE WORLD HAD EVER SEEN UP UNTIL THEN. ITS SHEER SIZE ON A MAP SURELY MARKED ITS STATUS AS A WORLD EMPIRE.